E/1994/35/Rev.1

United Nations

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/ United Nations Population Fund

Report of the Executive Board on its work during 1994

Economic and Social Council

Official Records, 1994
Supplement No.15

E/1994/35/Rev.1

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United Nations • New York, 1994

NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

ISSN 0257-1501

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Part one

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

Held at United Nations Headquarters from 15 to 18 February 1994

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993, the Economic and Social Council on 4 February 1994 elected the following 36 members to the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA for a term expiring on 31 December of the year indicated:

African States: Cameroon (1994); Congo (1994); Gambia (1994); Lesotho (1994); Morocco (1996); Sierra Leone (1996); Somalia (1994); Sudan (1995).

Asian States: Bangladesh (1996); China (1994); India (1995); Pakistan (199[illegible] Papua New Guinea (1994); Philippines (1994); Republic of Korea (1995).

Eastern European States: Bulgaria (1995); Poland (1996); Russian Federation (1995); Slovak Republic (1994).

Latin American and Caribbean States: Argentina (1995); Cuba (1994); Peru (1996); Trinidad and Tobago (1996); Uruguay (1995).

Western European and Other States: Belgium (1996); Canada (1994); Denmark (1996); France (1994); Germany (1994); Italy (1995); Japan (1995); New Zealand (1995); Norway (1994); Portugal (1996); United Kingdom (1995); United States of America (1995).

A. Opening of the meeting

2. On 15 February 1994, the first meeting of the first regular session of the new Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA was declared open by the last President of the Governing Council, Ambassador Rabah Hadid (Algeria). He congratulated all the newly elected 36 members of the Board and expressed the hope that member States not elected to the new Executive Board would be given the opportunity to remain in close contact with the work of the Programme and the Executive Board and be kept informed about all activities in which they had an interest.

3. Ambassador Hadid paid special tribute to the Associate Administrator of UNDP, Mr. Luis María Gómez, who had resigned effective 15 February 1994. He expressed profound admiration for Luis María Gómez's outstanding contributions to the United Nations system and UNDP in particular. Ambassador Hadid, as well as the following speakers, praised the Associate Administrator for his devotion, integrity, competence, efficiency, total commitment and loyalty, intelligence, experience and, not least, frankness and unfailing sense of humour.

4. A member proposed a decision as a tribute to the Associate Administrator and the Executive Board adopted by acclamation its first decision:

94/1. Expression of appreciation to Mr. Luis María Gómez, Associate Administrator of UNDP, 1990-1994

The Executive Board

Notes with regret that Mr. Luis María Gómez, Associate Administrator since 1990, is resigning and wishes to thank him most sincerely for the dedicated,

highly effective and good humoured way in which he made an exceptional contribution to the work of the United Nations Development Programme. The Executive Board wishes him and his family every success in the future: Good luck Luis!

15 February 1994

B. Election of the Bureau of the Executive Board

5. The Executive Board agreed to the following two proposals of the President:

(a) Until the transformation process has been completed and new rules of procedure have been adopted, the Executive Board would follow the rules of procedure of the former Governing Council in such cases where the provisions of General Assembly resolution 48/162 were not sufficient.

(b) The Executive Board would elect a Bureau consisting of a President and four Vice-Presidents with due account taken of the need to ensure equitable geographical representation. According to the previously established pattern of rotation of posts among the various regional groups, the President of the Executive Board for 1994 should be elected from among the Asian States that were members of the Board.

The Executive Board elected, by acclamation, the following Bureau for 1994:

President	H.E. Mr. Mohammad Hamid Ansari (India)
Vice-President	H.E. Mr. Valentin Dobrev (Bulgaria)
Vice-President	Mr. R. Carlos Sersale di Cerisano (Argentina)
Vice-President	Mr. Momodou Kebba Jallow (Gambia)
Vice-President	Ms. Elisabeth Jacobsen (Norway)

6. The newly elected President of the Executive Board, Ambassador Ansari, expressed commitment to the establishment of a completely new set of ground rules for the future functioning of the Executive Board, based on General Assembly resolution 48/162, so that it would be functional as well as beneficial. The same commitment was expressed by the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNFPA in their introductory remarks.

7. The Executive Director of UNFPA referred to the draft Programme of Action for the International Conference on Population and Development, scheduled to be held in Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994. The Conference would make its views known to the General Assembly regarding the need for a separate Executive Board for UNFPA. She also underlined UNFPA's flexibility concerning the allocation of agenda items among the annual session and the regular sessions of the Executive Board during 1994.

C. Adoption of the agenda

8. The Executive Board adopted the following agenda for the session, as contained in document DP/1994/L.1:

Item 1. Opening of the meeting

Item 2. Election of the Bureau of the Executive Board

Item 3. Adoption of the agenda

Item 4. Organization of the work of the Executive Board

Item 5. HIV and Development: National Professional Officers

Item 6. Other matters

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

9. The deliberations of this item fell into three parts: (a) questions relating to the meeting and work schedule for 1994; (b) working methods; (c) rules of procedure.

A. Questions relating to the meeting and work schedule for 1994

Schedule of meetings

10. The Executive Board had a lengthy discussion of its meeting schedule, which included a discussion of venue of the annual meeting. The Board agreed to meet at Geneva for the 1994 annual meeting as previously decided by the Governing Council in its decision 93/45 of 17 June 1993. However, it was made clear that the decision to meet at Geneva related only to 1994 and that the decision was taken without prejudice for future discussions of the venue issue. The Board adopted the following decision:

94/2. Future sessions of the Executive Board

The Executive Board

Agrees to the following schedule of future meetings of the Board subject to the approval of the Committee on Conferences and, in case of the October meeting, of the General Assembly:

(a) A regular session from 10 to 13 May 1994 in New York;

(b) The annual session from 6 to 17 June 1994 at Geneva with UNDP subjects to be taken up during the first week of the session and subjects relating to UNFPA and United Nations technical cooperation activities to be taken up during the second week;

(c) A regular session of three days' duration beginning around 6 October 1994 in New York, immediately following the conclusion of the G-77 meeting;

(d) The first regular session 1995 from 10 to 13 January 1995 in New York.

16 and 18 February 1994

11. The Executive Board also agreed to have an informal briefing with participation of Resident Representatives on 18 March 1994.

Division of labour between the annual sessions and the regular sessions

12. There was agreement on the following general guidelines for division of labour between the annual session and the regular sessions:

Annual session: Should feature mainly discussions on important issues and issues of wide interest, such as: annual report/address of the Administrator/Executive Director; issues related to resources (sixth cycle, Special Programme Resources); implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199; topical issues as determined at regular sessions (such as the future of UNDP); United Nations technical cooperation activities; as appropriate, issues such as "New Agenda for Africa" and "Human Development Report";

Regular sessions: country programmes; budgetary and administrative matters; sectoral issues, such as HIV and Development; regional issues; humanitarian issues; monitoring and evaluation of the organizations's work and functioning; agency support costs; contribution to and follow-up of Conferences;

Both annual and regular sessions: new initiatives; implementation of Economic and Social Council decisions; environmental issues; Office for Project Services (OPS).

13. In accordance with these guidelines, the Executive Board agreed on a division of labour among the three sessions to be held in May, June and October 1994, respectively, and subjects to be discussed at each session. It was agreed that UNFPA subjects in 1994 should be discussed mainly at the annual session, taking into consideration the extensive preparations required for the International Conference on Population and Development, 5-13 September 1994.

14. The subjects to be discussed in May, June and October 1994 are listed in the annex.

Field visits 1994

15. The Executive Board agreed that the Bureau of the Board should decide on dates for field visits. The Board took note that the three visits considered in 1994 were the following:

Two visits from 25 April to 6 May: one to Philippines and Viet Nam, and the other to the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Jordan.

16. A third visit to take place in the latter part of August to two African countries would be considered.

B. Questions relating to working methods of the Executive Board

17. The President of the Board mentioned that the motivation behind the creation of the Executive Board was efficiency and practicality. The working methods of the Board should therefore be functional and businesslike. Flexibility was needed to determine future meeting and work schedules. There was general agreement that the number of regular sessions should be a function of the workload of the Executive Board in a given year.

18. There was agreement that new working methods were needed if the Board were to be able to cope with the many subjects on the agendas for May, June and October. References were made to the new spirit and new culture that had seemed to emerge during the session. Decisions were successfully adopted in new, simplified ways. Important practical steps were agreed on to change the working methods concerning records and documentation. The secretariat took note of

concrete proposals and ideas presented. Representatives were encouraged to forward additional proposals on working methods in writing to the secretariat as soon as possible, so that a note could be prepared to enable a continuation of the discussion of working methods during the second regular session, 10-13 May 1994.

Records

19. The President drew the attention of the Executive Board to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 48/222 B of 23 December 1993, in which the General Assembly "encourages all bodies currently entitled to written meeting records to review the need for such records, particularly verbatim records, and to communicate their recommendations to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session". The Board adopted the following decision:

94/3. Summary records

The Executive Board

Decides to replace the summary records for the regular sessions of the Board with a report prepared by the secretariat, which will also contain the decisions taken by the Board. This report will be distributed to all members of the Programme a few weeks after the session and will be approved at the following session of the Board.

18 February 1994

20. A decision concerning summary records for the annual sessions would not be taken before the 1994 annual session. A representative proposed that for future sessions efforts should be made to provide a draft report at the end of those sessions.

Documentation

21. There was general agreement that the documentation provided for the Executive Board sessions should be brief, focused and issue-oriented. On this basis, the Board adopted the following decision:

94/4. Format of reports

The Executive Board

Decides that reports from the secretariat shall normally consist of no more than three pages and include sections identifying the objective of the report, means of implementation and the decision requested of the Board. Where unavoidable, additional information shall be provided in an annex or addendum to the report.

18 February 1994

Meeting facilities

22. The Secretary of the Executive Board informed the Board that UNDP had been reviewing ways in which it could accommodate the Board within its present headquarters premises in order to comply with paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 48/162, annex I.

23. The allocation of 50 per cent of a floor in the DC-1 building for the Executive Board room would provide adequate meeting space for Board members, one support staff per member, observers, and members of the secretariat. However, a board room of this size in the DC-1 building, accommodating 80-100 persons, would have some limitations that should be considered. The view within the room would be obstructed by bearing pillars. Furthermore, irrespective of the room size, the ceiling height in the DC-1 building would require that smaller-than-standard translation booths be installed. Estimated costs for this first proposal were approximately $800,000. An estimated additional amount of $300,000 per annum would be required for renting space for organizational units that would be displaced. The figures provided were of a very preliminary nature.

24. The Executive Board was also informed that UNDP/UNFPA in New York were currently dispersed over five separate locations and that the Coordination Committee on Common Premises, chaired by the United Nations Secretariat, had tentatively identified a building in the vicinity of the United Nations as a potential consolidated site for common premises to which all units of UNDP and its associated funds, UNFPA and parts of UNICEF could be relocated within two years. As a tentative provisional solution pending the move to a new building, the option of sharing joint Executive Board facilities with UNICEF was mentioned.

25. The Executive Board took into account the statement by the Secretary and the estimated costs presented. The Board would observe with great interest the deliberation in the UNICEF Executive Board the following week regarding the issue of meeting facilities. The question of future headquarters premises of UNDP and UNFPA would also have to be taken into account and a progress report on the matter should be provided at the next regular session.

C. Rules of procedure of the Executive Board

26. The Executive Board had a preliminary discussion of rules of procedure. Some delegations pointed out that the rules of procedure of the Governing Council, which were not very detailed, had not been used very often. It was also pointed out that there was no urgency in the matter and that the Executive Board would gradually learn its own needs also in that respect. Delegations identified issues that needed careful consideration: the question of permanent committees or ad hoc committees; languages; observers; venue.

27. The secretariat took note of the various proposals made and delegations were encouraged to forward more proposals in writing to the secretariat. The Executive Board agreed that the matter should be taken up again both at the May session and at the June session. The secretariat was requested to prepare draft rules of procedure for a preliminary discussion in May.

III. BUILDING A NEW UNDP: AGENDA FOR CHANGE

28. On 17 February 1994, the Administrator gave an extensive initial presentation of ideas and recommendations for strengthening and repositioning UNDP, entitled: "Building a new UNDP: Agenda for change". The statement of the Administrator was distributed.

29. Following the presentation, many delegations took the floor and broad support was given to the ideas and objectives the Administrator had outlined. Representatives expressed their satisfaction that a discussion of the future of UNDP had been launched in such a perceptive and thought-provoking manner and many looked forward to a full discussion of the subject at the 1994 annual session, when the comprehensive thoughts presented by the Administrator would have been better digested.

30. It was stated that the Administrator had provided a solid analysis, giving the right direction in which UNDP should move. The goals and the activities outlined were broadly considered to be right and consistent with the six areas of focus identified in paragraph 7 of Governing Council decision 90/34 and other mandates previously given by the Council.

31. Representatives expressed agreement concerning the need for change, the need to be more substantive and the need for a stronger focus. It was important to define the three objectives so that they were mutually supportive. It was also important to benefit from the synergies possible among the various components of the United Nations system.

32. Some representatives said that they would welcome more information on how the broad strategies could be translated into detailed policies and programmes and how the mission and the goals identified could be operationalized. Other representatives addressed issues such as countries in transition, sustainable food security and priorities at the field level.

33. The President of the Executive Board said in his summing up that the Administrator had given a powerful presentation of his agenda for change. It had made a great impact and the ideas presented were generally welcomed by the Board.

IV. HIV AND DEVELOPMENT: NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS

34. The Executive Board reviewed the approval in principle, given by the Governing Council in paragraph 23 of its decision 93/35 of 18 June 1993, of the establishment of a limited network of up to 22 National Officer posts to support the role of the Resident Coordinator/Resident Representative in the national response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. In an oral introduction of the item, the secretariat gave additional information to that contained in the documentation provided (DP/1994/5).

35. A number of representatives expressed support for the establishment of the network of national professional officers as soon as possible. Some representatives added that they could support the immediate establishment of the network provided that the role of the national professional officers would be fully compatible with the proposed joint and co-sponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS and that the decision on placement would be taken with the other proposed co-sponsors of the programme.

36. Other representatives expressed a preference for a decision at a later stage, when the Board would have more information on the joint and co-sponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS and how the national professional officers would fit into it.

37. Informal consultations took place on the issue. Before the adoption of the decision, the Assistant Administrator and Director, BPPE, provided clarifications requested by some delegations:

(a) The decision before the Board was not in any way binding on delegations as to the actual outcome of the negotiations on a joint and co-sponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS. It simply stated that a joint co-sponsored programme was desirable and that the Board wanted its decision to be in conformity and consistent with such a programme;

(b) Assurances were given that UNDP would integrate its programme and that it would be complimentary to, and non-duplicative of, existing activities of other United Nations programmes.

38. The Executive Board adopted the following decision:

94/5. HIV and Development: National Professional Officers

The Executive Board

Authorizes the Administrator to complete the hiring of 22 National Officer posts as per Governing Council decision 93/35 on the condition that:

(a) The HIV/AIDS Inter-Agency Working Group reviews the terms of reference and proposed locations of these 22 positions and agrees in writing that they are consistent with a longer-term staffing strategy compatible with the establishment of a joint co-sponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS;

(b) The contracts will be of a six-month duration only and will be reviewed by the Executive Board at its October 1994 session before further approval is given;

(c) The Administrator gives firm assurances to the Executive Board that any activity of the Programme now and in the future will be fully integrated with, complementary to, and non-duplicative of existing activities of other United Nations agencies in this field and fully compatible with a joint co-sponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS;

(d) The United Nations Development Programme treat with urgency negotiation of a joint co-sponsored programme on HIV/AIDS and bring to the May regular session of the Executive Board further information on how it will integrate its activities in HIV/AIDS with such a programme so that the Executive Board can work towards a recommendation of a joint co-sponsored programme to the Economic and Social Council no later than July 1994.

18 February 1994

V. OTHER MATTERS

39. Several members suggested that very informal consultations on the Office for Project Services should be initiated before the regular session in May 1994. It was agreed to leave it to interested delegations to arrange for such consultations.

Part two

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

Held at United Nations Headquarters from 10 to 13 May 1994

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

1. On 10 May 1994, the Executive Board adopted the following agenda for its second regular session 1994, as contained in document DP/1994/L.2:

Item 1: Organizational matters

Item 2: Office for Project Services

Item 3: Programme-level activities and special programmes of assistance

Item 4: Matters relating to the programming cycles

Item 5: Country programmes, mid-term reviews and related matters

Item 6: Evaluation

Item 7: Other funds and programmes

Item 8: Other matters

The Board also agreed on the work plan as contained in document DP/1994/L.2.

2. The Administrator informed the Executive Board that a major effort had been made to reduce the number of introductions. In addition, all senior staff had been instructed to be as brief as possible in their statements. A number of members of the Board expressed strong concern that some of the documentation was distributed very late.

3. The President informed the Board that no written comments had been received from Members of the Board to the report on the first regular session 1994, which had been issued under the symbol DP/1994/2. The Board approved the report without comments.

Summary records for annual sessions

4. The President drew the attention of the Executive Board to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 48/222 B of 23 December 1993, in which the General Assembly "encourages all bodies currently entitled to written meeting records to review the need for such records, particularly verbatim records, and to communicate their recommendations to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session". The President recalled that in February the Board had decided to abolish summary records for the regular sessions of the Board and that one week later the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) had agreed to abolish summary records for all its sessions. At the informal briefing session on 28 April 1994 of UNDP/UNFPA, there had been very broad support for the proposal to abolish summary records for annual sessions, in particular since considerable savings would be achieved if a decision could be taken before the 1994 annual session. On 13 May 1994, the Board decided to abolish the summary records for its annual sessions.

II. OFFICE FOR PROJECT SERVICES

5. The Under-Secretary-General of the Department for Development Support and Management Services (DDSMS) introduced the draft report of the Secretary-General on the Office of Project Services (OPS) (DP/1994/27), which had been requested by the Governing Council in paragraph 6 of its decision 93/46 of 16 December 1993. He stated that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) would review the matters relating to OPS, as requested in decision 93/46, at a meeting on 16 and 17 May 1994. The analysis and recommendations of ACABQ are expected to be available to the Executive Board at its annual session in June 1994. The Under-Secretary-General for DDSMS described the arrangements that had been worked out in the areas of finance, personnel, administration, and budget. He stated that the report was the result of consultations among all parties related to the proposed transfer of OPS to DDSMS, as well as with some Governments. It took into consideration all relevant legislation and documentation and it reflected the endorsement of all members of the OPS Management Board. The Administrator stated that he supported the presentation of the report of the Secretary-General by the Under-Secretary-General of DDSMS. The United Nations Under-Secretary-General of Administration and Management noted that the combination of OPS and DDSMS had, as its purpose, the valid business objective of aggregating compatible resources, increasing efficiency, and decreasing unwarranted competitiveness. He stated that the plan before the Board did that.

6. Several delegations expressed the view that while measures to enhance the autonomy of OPS and improve the transparency of OPS relations with UNDP and the United Nations system should be pursued, OPS should continue to be part of UNDP, reporting to the Administrator and to the Executive Board, and that a decision should be taken as quickly as possible. One delegation noted a contact group of interested parties had been convened since March 1994 with the aim of better informing itself on the future role and structure of OPS. Another delegation suggested that the Board recommend the formation of an advisory board to deal with implementation issues of technical cooperation and to work towards ensuring closer cooperation with all parts of the United Nations system, including DDSMS. It was also suggested that the Administrator report to the Board at a future meeting on ways and means that those concerns could be addressed while maintaining OPS within UNDP.

7. One delegation stated that the report of the Secretary-General adequately addressed the concerns that Member States had voiced the previous year and showed that the integration of OPS with DDSMS would allow for complementarity and improved cost-effectiveness. Another asked for more time to consider all documentation before a decision was taken by the Board.

8. The Under-Secretary-General of DDSMS, in response to the discussion, noted that the integration of OPS into DDSMS was intended as an important component of the Secretary-General's mandate to reform the United Nations system at the request of Member States. The Secretary-General had the legislative authority of the United Nations Charter to serve as the Organization's Chief Administrative Officer. The Under-Secretary-General of DDSMS stated that Member States had given the Secretary-General the mandate for restructuring of the United Nations, had approved the overall idea of the merger of OPS and DDSMS, and had asked the Secretary-General for further details on the modalities for the merger. On that basis, the Secretary-General and all concerned parties had undertaken a great amount of work, at the request of ACABQ and the Governing

Council. These preparations were designed to ensure added value in the functioning of OPS and in the benefits to United Nations Member States.

9. The President suggested that the Executive Board meet informally in order to enable a convergence of views and develop a common perception.

10. Following informal consultations among delegations and between delegations and the Secretariat, the President informed the Executive Board that the adoption of a decision on OPS would be deferred to the 1994 annual meeting of the Board with the understanding that there would be no delay beyond that meeting. In the interim, delegations would hold informal discussions based on a work programme directed at achieving concrete results. The consultations would be open to all interested Members of the Programme and would be announced in the Journal.

III. PROGRAMME-LEVEL ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ASSISTANCE

A. Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People

11. A number of representatives welcomed the report of the Administrator on the activities of the Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People. Several references were made to the areas of programme focus, the importance of coordinated action by all members of the donor community and the role of UNDP in that process, and the urgency of providing increased assistance to Palestinians in strengthening their own contributions. Several speakers welcomed the agreement concluded on 9 May 1994 between the Palestine Liberation Organization and UNDP.

12. The President of the Executive Board stated in conclusion that it had been agreed, after informal consultations, that there was no need for a decision on this item.

B. The role of the United Nations Development Programme in humanitarian affairs

13. Several delegations took the floor to express strong and continuing support for the Disaster Management Training Programme, which was described as a unique inter-agency tool for building national and United Nations disaster-management capacity.

14. Representatives recognized the importance of UNDP's involvement in the relief-to-development continuum and stressed the importance of the organization's involvement in emergencies, particularly through the Resident Representative/Resident Coordinator system. Support was also voiced for UNDP efforts in rehabilitation and reconstruction and in development programmes for refugees, returnees and the reintegration of ex-combatants.

15. General agreement was expressed for the need to strengthen cooperation between UNDP and the Department for Humanitarian Affairs and to widen the pool of prospective Resident Coordinators to include qualified candidates from other agencies.

16. Representatives welcomed the initiative shown by UNDP in commissioning a study on the organization's role in the continuum and requested to be briefed on the results.

17. The Administrator noted the recommendations and endorsements of the delegations and appealed for additional financial contributions that would allow UNDP to carry out effectively its increasing responsibilities.

18. The Executive Board took note of the report contained in document DP/1994/13 and the comments made by delegations.

C. HIV and development: the proposed joint and co-sponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS

19. Many delegations took the floor to express their support for UNDP participation, along with that of other United Nations organizations, in the

ongoing process to establish a United Nations system programme on HIV/AIDS. Some concern was expressed that the process of establishing the proposed programme should not impede the urgent work of UNDP and other organizations in strengthening national capacity to respond effectively to the epidemic. The proposed United Nations system programme will be taken up next during the 1994 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council.

20. Representatives commended UNDP for its efforts to help to strengthen national capacity to deal with the multisectoral aspects of the HIV epidemic. Satisfaction was also expressed at the recruitment of the 22 HIV and Development National Professicnal Officers, whose posts had been approved in principle by the Governing Council in its decision 93/35.

21. Several delegations emphasized the importance of the Resident Coordinator in coordinating the United Nations system response to the HIV epidemic at the country level in the spirit of General Assembly resolution 47/199. A number of delegations stressed the need to mobilize more resources for HIV country-level coordination.

22. The Executive Board adopted the following decision:

94/6. United Nations joint and co-sponsored programme on HIV/AIDS

The Executive Board

1. Encourages the United Nations Development Programme to continue to participate actively in the ongoing negotiations among the secretariats of the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization and the World Bank to establish with urgency a United Nations joint and co-sponsored programme on HIV/AIDS and to ensure that a proposal is put before the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1994;

2. Supports participation of the United Nations Development Programme in the new United Nations joint and co-sponsored programme on HIV/AIDS;

3. Reaffirms that country coordination of the joint and co-sponsored programme should be undertaken within the framework of General Assembly resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992 and of Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/7 of 22 July 1993;

4. Authorizes the Administrator to recruit the 22 National Officers as per decision 93/35 of 18 June 1993, taking into consideration the future need to adjust the terms of reference for the 22 positions to make them compatible with the United Nations joint and co-sponsored programme on HIV/AIDS;

5. Requests the Administrator to report on the activities of these 22 National Professional Officers to the Executive Board at its second regular session 1995;

6. Requests the Administrator to transmit the present decision to the other co-sponsoring organizations as well as to the Economic and Social Council.

IV. MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMMING CYCLES

Request from the Government of Albania for "as if" LDC status

23. The Director of the Division for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States introduced the item. He indicated that the Governing Council had reviewed the issue at its fortieth session (1993) and had postponed taking a decision pending additional information on the economic situation in Albania. The additional information was now included in the report of the Administrator (DP/1994/4), which was before the Executive Board.

24. In his statement to the Executive Board, the representative of Albania presented the view of his Government that the Board should approve Albania's request for "as if" LDC status, drawing attention to the severe poverty, increased infant mortality, and serious economic difficulties faced by the Government as it attempted to introduce reforms after years of isolation.

25. Several delegations expressed support for the request of Albania, and expressed their willingness to decide to grant Albania "as if" LDC status as an exceptional measure, and for a temporary period, with the condition that a precedent not be established. Some other delegations stated that, while sympathizing with Albania's request, they thought that Albania did not qualify for "as if" LDC status and that any decision should await a recommendation by the Committee on Development Planning.

26. Following informal discussions, the Executive Board adopted the following decision:

94/8. Granting of indicative planning figure resources to Albania

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator contained in document DP/1994/4 and its annex;

2. Decides, in view of Albania's current and near-term circumstances of severe poverty and extremely low per capita income, to authorize the Administrator to allocate an additional $1.6 million to the fifth cycle indicative planning figure resources available to Albania on an exceptional and one-time basis. The amount will be adjusted in accordance with any future revisions in indicative planning figures that the Executive Board may approve at its 1994 annual session.

27. The representative of Albania, on behalf of his Government, thanked all members of the Executive Board for their decision and stated that it clearly indicated that the international community recognized and supported the development process, the efforts being made towards establishing a market economy, and the strengthening of democracy in Albania.

V. COUNTRY PROGRAMMES, MID-TERM REVIEWS AND RELATED MATTERS

A. Regional Bureau for Africa

Sixth country programme for Kenya (DP/1994/CP/KEN/6)

Programme period: 1993-1996; IPF: $41.8 million

28. Three broad areas of concentration or themes for UNDP support were identified: governance and participatory development; capacity-building for economic management; and small- and medium-scale enterprise development.

29. The Assistant Minister for Planning and National Development of Kenya commented on the linkages and relevance of the sixth country programme to the seventh National Development Plan and expressed his Government's appreciation for UNDP support to the continuing national development efforts.

30. Several delegations, while generally supporting the thrust and strategy proposed under the sixth country programme, sought clarification on a number of issues, including: the extent to which the sixth country programme had taken into account the findings of the mid-term review of the fifth country programme; the scattered nature of projects within the concentration areas; the optimistic expectations regarding complementary cost-sharing; the role of UNDP in coordination vis-à-vis that of the World Bank; and the specific activities of UNDP in support of the Capacity 21 initiative. Support was also expressed for the employment-generation strategy suggested in the sixth country programme.

31. In reply, the Resident Representative provided detailed answers, emphasizing the collaborative alliance of UNDP and the World Bank in aid coordination; the programme's domestic resource-mobilization strategy and the trend towards phasing out the numerous inherited small projects in the programme. The Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa also pointed out that Kenya had established field-level coordination committees under the leadership of the Government, which had contributed substantively to the continuing dialogue with the Government and to inter-agency programming initiatives such as the preparation of the country strategy note.

32. The Board approved the sixth country programme for Kenya as presented.

Fifth country programme for Madagascar (DP/CP/MAG/5)

Programme period: 1993-1996; IPF: $63.4 million

33. The three main areas of concentration of the programme were: strengthening economic management capacity; management of natural resources; and reduction of poverty. These had been basically retained from the previous programme and were perceived by both the Government and UNDP as relevant to the country's present development efforts. The main innovation in the fifth programme was the concentration of development activities in southern Madagascar by both UNDP and the United Nations system in general, and in accordance with Government priorities.

34. A number of delegations regarded the proposed programme as well articulated, consistent with the national priorities and in a few cases complementary to bilateral programmes. The UNDP leadership role in aid coordination, especially in disaster management in the south of the country, was

highly commended, as was the emphasis on gender considerations and the sustainability of public sector institutions under the new programme. However, questions were also raised on the prospects of accomplishing the objectives of the programme in the light of limited resources. In particular, one representative sought clarification on the role of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Turin Centre in the planned training activities in the modality of national execution.

35. The representative of Madagascar expressed the gratitude of the Malagasy Government for the support given by delegations and confirmed its commitment to cooperate fully with UNDP to realize the objectives of the programme. However, he pointed out the need for additional financial support from the international community to ensure the success of the programme. The representative paid special tribute to UNDP and the Resident Representative for his spirit of open and effective collaboration.

36. The Executive Board approved the fifth country programme for Madagascar as presented.

Assistance to Angola

37. The Executive Board had before it document DP/1994/8, in which the Administrator requested Board approval to continue the programme of assistance to Angola during 1994 on a project-by-project basis because of the ongoing conflict in the country, which inhibited the preparation of a country programme for Angola.

38. The request was well supported by various delegations. In particular, the representative of Portugal extended an invitation on behalf of his Government for the proposed UNDP-led round-table conference to take place in Lisbon, should that be agreeable to UNDP and the donor community.

39. The Executive Board approved the request as presented.

Assistance to Congo

40. The Executive Board considered document DP/1994/21, in which the Administrator requested the approval of the Board to continue assistance to Congo on a project-by-project basis owing to the ongoing civil strife, which had made it difficult to prepare a formal country programme for Congo.

41. The Board approved the request as presented.

Assistance to Togo

42. The Executive Board considered document DP/1994/42, in which the Administrator requested the approval of the Board to continue assistance to Togo on a project-by-project basis owing to the ongoing civil strife, which had made it difficult to prepare a formal country programme for Togo.

43. The Executive Board approved the request as presented.

Assistance to Zaire

44. The Executive Board had before it document DP/1994/43, in which the Administrator sought approval to continue assistance to Zaire on a case-by-case

basis because of the ongoing civil strife, which had made it difficult to prepare a formal country programme for the country.

45. The Executive Board approved the request as presented.

Advancement of the fifth country programme for the United Republic of Tanzania

46. The Executive Board had before it document DP/1994/14 on the advancement of the fifth country programme for the United Republic of Tanzania. Following extensive consultations between the Government and United Nations agencies, the areas of concentration under the fifth country programme had been reduced from five to four key programmes: macro-economic management; human resource management; national income-generation programme; and natural resource management. The modified programme would also seek greater use of the modality of national execution in each area of concentration.

47. While delegations were generally pleased with efforts made during the previous year to give a better focus to the programme, they expressed concern on several issues relating to the prospects for raising cost-sharing resources, the concentration area of national income-generation, which was perceived as still too broad, and the lack of clearly defined success indicators and benchmarks.

48. UNDP assured the Executive Board that the issues raised would be duly taken into consideration in the continuing dialogue with the Government and in developing the individual programmes.

49. The Executive Board took note of the report on the United Republic of Tanzania as contained in document DP/1994/15.

Review of the fourth country programme for Equatorial Guinea

50. The Executive Board considered document DP/1994/30, in which the Administrator proposed a reorientation of the fourth country programme for Equatorial Guinea to focus on governance and environmental issues and an extension of the approved programming period to 1996.

51. Most delegations commended UNDP efforts at aid coordination in Equatorial Guinea and voiced support for the proposal to combine development programmes with good governance. However, one representative expressed concern over the absence of clearly defined success criteria and benchmarks with regard to progress in governance and human rights in the country while another expressed doubt about the reliability of the existing electoral system in the country.

52. In response, UNDP noted its collaboration with the United Nations Centre for Human Rights to support the Government in pursuing a constructive dialogue on governance.

53. The Executive Board approved the proposal as presented.

B. Regional Bureau for Arab States

Third regional programme for Arab States (DP/RAB/3)

Programme period: 1994-1996; IPF: $23,300,000

54. In addition to the ongoing activities in food security, water, environment and information technology, which would continue to receive UNDP support, the new programme would focus on three new areas: sustainable human development; economic integration; and trade and sustainable energy.

55. Several delegations expressed support for the programme and commended the catalytic role it could play in enhancing subregional and regional cooperation. They also provided the following comments:

(a) Closer coordination with country programmes and with activities undertaken by United Nations agencies and other donors was required;

(b) The need to reflect systematically the sustainability element in the programmes to be developed;

(c) The regional programme could play a key role in advocating sustainable human development and in facilitating the exchange of experiences and information among countries;

(d) The creative approach adopted by the programme to increase resources in the form of cost-sharing could serve as an example to other programmes;

(e) The need to ensure that the results of agricultural research programmes were rapidly transferred to farmer communities and that mechanisms were established for coordination with international research centres;

(f) The need to support activities in the energy sector that would address the issue of price subsidies.

56. In response, UNDP noted that coordination with United Nations specialized agencies and donors had been carried out and cited the examples of the Centre for Environment and Development in the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE) and the Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Programme (METAP), where activities were being streamlined to avoid duplication.

57. On sustainability, UNDP indicated that substantive and financial linkages between country and regional activities, focus on regional priorities, use of national and regional institutions and the development of instruments such as databases, communications facilities and network newsletters represented key factors that would be taken into account in the design of the programmes.

58. The dissemination of results of agricultural research programmes to farmers was a long-term process that had already been initiated through national agricultural research institutes and the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) in a number of projects, such as for those for barley and wheat.

59. The considerable amount of data collected during the formulation stage of the third regional programme constituted an important step towards building up sound baseline information that would also serve as an instrument for the monitoring of the programme's impact.

60. With respect to energy, pricing subsidies would be addressed within the overall context of the efficiency programme and demand-side-management components of the programme. The experiences acquired in some of the region's countries would be shared at the regional level.

61. The Executive Board approved the programme as presented.

Assistance to Somalia

62. The Executive Board had before it the report of the Administrator on UNDP activities in Somalia (DP/1994/3).

63. Most delegations expressed support for the proposed programme for Somalia and particularly commended UNDP for efforts in aid coordination, the emphasis on community-based development activities, the successful demobilization efforts in the north of Somalia and the transfer of the Development Office to UNDP. A few delegations emphasized the importance of further coordination with NGOs, bilateral donors and the World Bank and the consolidation of the activities of the Development Office, especially as the role of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) in the country declined. In the present circumstances of Somalia, it was also important for UNDP to be seen to be pursuing equitable regional development activities.

64. The Executive Board took note of the report of the Administrator on Somalia.

Assistance to the Sudan

65. The Executive Board considered the report of the Administrator on the implementation of the fourth country programme for the Sudan (DP/1994/16).

66. Several delegations expressed concern over the continuing human rights violations in the Sudan, the Government's obstruction of relief efforts in the south of the country and the concentration of UNDP activities only in the north of the country. One delegation felt that continued UNDP assistance to the Sudan under those conditions was ill advised. In response, a number of delegations noted that the Executive Board was not the proper forum for resolving political questions and that UNDP assistance should be provided unconditionally, in line with its mandate.

67. UNDP conceded that its current activities in Sudan covered only the north, mainly as a result of the absence of security and stability in the southern region. However, assistance had recently been extended to Wau, in the southern region, mainly in the area of food security and agriculture to the extent that the security situation permitted it.

68. The representative of the Sudan pointed out some recent positive developments, which included the adoption of a free-market economy, decentralization of government and the Government's peace negotiation efforts. He fully supported others who stated that the Executive Board was not a forum for political or human rights issues. He added that the right to development was a fundamental human right. As for humanitarian relief, the General Assembly had praised the cooperation of the Sudanese Government.

69. The Executive Board took note of the report on the enabling environment for the implementation of the fourth country programme for the Sudan. A number of delegations supported the fourth country programme for Sudan.

C. Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific

Fifth country programme for the Islamic Republic of Iran (DP/CP/IRA/5)

Programme period: 1994-1998, IPF: $11,264,000

70. Several delegations praised the programme for its focus on management development. Two delegations emphasized their satisfaction with the harmonization of planning cycles now achieved among the agencies of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP).

71. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a concluding statement emphasizing the close cooperation between the Government and UNDP in the review of the fourth country programme and in the preparation of the fifth country programme document and underlined the progress made by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the health and education sectors in spite of a number of adverse circumstances.

72. The Executive Board approved the fifth country programme for the Islamic Republic of Iran as presented.

Assistance to the Union of Myanmar

73. The Board had before it the report of the Administrator on assistance to the Union of Myanmar (DP/1994/17).

74. Several delegations expressed support for the various activities of UNDP at the village and grass-roots levels and agreed that those activities were important in meeting the humanitarian needs of the people of Myanmar. There was general consensus that the 14 projects approved in June 1993, plus the HIV/AIDS project (currently under formulation) responded fully to the mandate outlined in Governing Council decision 93/21 and should be carried through to completion.

75. In its decision 93/21, the Governing Council also requested the Administrator to present recommendations for future programming for its review at its forty-first session. However, a number of delegations expressed concern over the human rights and political situation in Myanmar and indicated that, for those reasons, they would not support additional programming in Myanmar beyond that approved in June 1993. In response, other delegations objected, on principle, to discussing human rights and related political issues in the Executive Board and noted that further UNDP assistance to Myanmar should be independent of political considerations.

76. Informal consultations were held on the matter. It was understood that the issue of future programming for Myanmar could be taken up at an appropriate time.

Assistance to Cambodia

77. The Board had before it the Administrator's report on assistance to Cambodia (DP/1994/25). UNDP efforts in support of Cambodia during the period of transition from 1991 through 1993 were noted with appreciation by many delegations. Several delegations called attention to the important role that UNDP was playing in the implementation of the National Programme for the Rehabilitation and Development of Cambodia, with particular reference to public-sector management as a whole, aid coordination and aid management, human resources development and other priority areas. Some delegations indicated that

they looked forward to a fuller and more substantive discussion on UNDP activities in Cambodia at the October 1994 session of the Executive Board, when it was expected that a country programme for Cambodia would be presented. In that regard, they asked that the relevant documentation be distributed to them well in advance of the meeting.

78. The Executive Board concluded its discussion of the note by endorsing its contents and by agreeing to the Administrator's proposal for the release of an additional $12 million in IPF resources for Cambodia pending submission of a country programme for Cambodia to the Executive Board. Subsequently, the representative of Cambodia made a strong statement in support of the action that had been taken by the Board.

D. Division for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States

Fourth country programme for Albania (DP/CP/ALB/4)

Programme period: 1994-1996; IPF: $6,074,000

79. Three areas of concentration were proposed for UNDP resources: (a) alleviation of the social impact of the structural reforms; (b) human resource development; and (c) national capacity-building. Several delegations spoke in support of the proposed country programme and some of the speakers made reference to their participation in the field visit of members of the Standing Committee on Programming Matters, which had visited Albania in 1993. All speakers emphasized their appreciation for the strong commitment and the efforts of the Government in effecting a reform to a market economy and the establishment of democracy in the country. Some speakers, however, felt that the country programme did not reflect a programme approach and contained too many diverse activities, which they considered could not be implemented within the limited UNDP resources available. In that connection, some delegations suggested that UNDP should focus on the alleviation of the social impact of structural economic reforms. The need for Albania to improve its aid coordination mechanisms was also highlighted by other delegations with the recommendation that UNDP assist the Government in that field.

80. In reply, UNDP explained that the programme had been formulated on the basis of anticipated additional funding and that the IPF was intended to be used as seed money to attract additional resources from other donors. In several instances, that was being achieved and reference was made to co-financing from the European Union and the United States and to the close collaboration and coordination of UNDP with other donors also focusing on the same areas.

81. The representative of Albania made a statement expressing his appreciation for those delegates who supported the country programme as well as to UNDP for its assistance. He confirmed that the areas of concentration mentioned in the country programme addressed the felt priority needs of his country as his Government tried to address the development problems they faced after years of isolation.

82. The Executive Board approved the fourth country programme for Albania as presented.

First country programme for Slovakia (DP/CP/SLO/1)

Programme period: 1994-1996; IPF: $1,100,000

83. The programme focus was on two areas of transition: restructuring the economy towards the private sector and human resources development. A number of delegations spoke in support of the proposed programme and applauded Slovakia's efforts to restructure its economy and strengthen its management capacity. Some delegations, however, emphasized the need for closer collaboration between UNDP and the Government, particularly in the absence of a country office and in view of Slovakia's emphasis on national execution, to ensure timely and smooth financial arrangements to facilitate the process. One delegation mentioned the absence of any reference to women in development and another stressed the need for support for Slovakia's environmental problems in terms of assistance from Capacity 21.

84. In taking the floor, the representative of Slovakia expressed his pleasure in presenting the first country programme for Slovakia to the Executive Board and emphasized the importance his Government attached to the limited but critical support from UNDP.

85. In response, UNDP reported that a regional statistical project, to be based in Bratislava, was in the final stages of formulation and one of the project's priorities would be the development of statistics on gender issues. In addition, UNDP was supporting the participation of NGOs focusing on gender issues in Slovakia. With regard to Capacity 21, UNDP emphasized that Slovakia's request for support in that area would be considered. UNDP was aware that there had been some problems in the transfer of funds to nationally executed projects and assured the Executive Board that they would be resolved. In that connection, UNDP planned to hold a workshop on national execution modalities in Bratislava in May in an effort to resolve some of the difficulties.

86. The Executive Board approved the first country programme for Slovakia as presented.

E. Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean

Fifth country programme for Guyana (DP/CP/GUY/5)

Programme period: 1994-1996; IPF: $5,940,000

87. The areas of concentration for UNDP support were management development; human resource development and poverty alleviation; and capacity-building and macroeconomic management.

88. A number of delegations were very supportive of the thrust of UNDP interventions as they related very closely to the key development priorities of the Government. Delegations also welcomed the preparation of the national long-term development plan that was currently under way with support from the donor community.

89. Two issues were of particular concern to some delegations: the limited capacity of the public sector, which impacted negatively on the development process, and the need for more effective aid coordination.

90. In response, UNDP noted that the Government had sought to strengthen its capacity by reforming the public sector and by the establishment of a national execution unit within the Economic Affairs Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It was stressed that the capacity constraints should be looked at within the wider context of the significant emigration of Guyanese nationals over close to two decades. Therefore, sustained approaches coordinated by the donor community would be critical in reversing the trend and encouraging the return of Guyanese nationals.

91. On aid coordination, UNDP explained that there was in fact a high level of coordination through a system of sectoral government/donor meetings. In addition, coordination took place through the Caribbean Group for Cooperation in Economic Development (CGCED) mechanism.

92. The representative of Guyana commented on the relevance of the fifth country programme and expressed her Government's appreciation for UNDP support in its national development efforts.

93. The Executive Board approved the fifth country programme for Guyana as presented.

F. Mid-term review reports

Overviews on mid-term reviews

94. The Executive Board considered document DP/1994/6, containing an overview of mid-term reviews undertaken in the first half of 1993, and document DP/1994/41, containing a tentative schedule for mid-term reviews that would be undertaken in 1994-1995.

95. One delegation sought clarification on the selection of representative reports to be presented to the Executive Board. It was explained that in line with previous practice, UNDP would make available mid-term reports on country programmes specifically identified by the Board and a representative sample from the reviews undertaken. It was anticipated that on average four or five reports would be presented as full Board documents while the remaining reports would be available on request in the original language of the review.

Mid-term review report of the fourth country programme for Cape Verde

96. The Executive Board had before it document DP/1994/41/Add.1, which contained the mid-term review of the fourth country programme for Cape Verde.

97. The representative of Cape Verde confirmed his Government's commitment to the successful implementation of the fourth country programme. He expressed the hope that current resource constraints faced by his country could be resolved through increased contributions from the international community.

98. While taking note of the report of the mid-term review, one representative raised the following issues: the need for UNDP to assume, with government concurrence, an increased leadership role in aid coordination to avoid persistent underutilization of resources and duplication and overlap of efforts; the disproportionately large size of the national staff in relation to the size of the programme; the need for more focus on the question of democracy, including decentralization; and the need for UNDP to streamline the complexity and workload arising from national execution procedures.

99. In response, UNDP assured the Executive Board that while aid coordination was a primary role of the Government, the effort was being supported by UNDP, particularly through the round-table process. The last round-table conference had been held in November 1992 while the next one was scheduled for November 1994. UNDP further noted that decentralization was an integral component of governance, which was itself a key element of the fourth country programme. UNDP noted the concern regarding the fragmentation of the programme in Cape Verde and assured the Executive Board that every effort was being made to rectify this matter in a progressive manner.

100. The Executive Board took note of the report as presented.

Mid-term review report of the third country programme for China

101. The Executive Board considered document DP/1991/41/Add.2, which contained the mid-term review of the third country programme for China.

102. The representative of China endorsed the mid-term review report, indicating that the review process had been extensive, covering the period from March to November 1993. As a result, the third country programme was well focused and had responded well to China's emerging needs. The Government of China and the UNDP country office were following up on the implementation of the mid-term review recommendations.

103. While generally supporting the third country programme areas of concentration, several delegations indicated the need for more attention to poverty alleviation and grass-roots participation and the incorporation of women in development. One delegation called on UNDP to play a more active role in coordinating poverty alleviation in view of donor interest in the area. Another delegation welcomed UNDP support for legal and economic reform in China. With specific reference to UNDP assistance for the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) negotiations, it was indicated that more emphasis was required on monitoring and enforcement aspects. The need for more support to private sector development was also mentioned. One representative expressed concern about the curtailment of UNDP assistance in the areas of environment, energy efficiency and social development as a result of reductions in IPF allocations.

104. On operational issues, China was commended for implementing the programme approach and national execution in its programmes. Particular concern was expressed about weaknesses in the monitoring and evaluation of the programme. The role of UNDP in aid coordination in China was generally considered to be satisfactory and its role in the formulation of the country strategy note was supported. The secretariat responded to queries raised providing more details on UNDP activities in support of poverty alleviation and environment through GEF funding. UNDP support for the formulation of China's national agenda 21 was also highlighted.

105. The Executive Board took note of the report as presented.

Mid-term review report of the fourth country programme for India

106. The Executive Board had before it document DP/1994/6/Add.2, which contained the mid-term review of the fourth country programme for India.

107. The representative of India presented in detail the process and results of the mid-term review, which had been thorough and had concluded that the

programme at large was on track but that further focus would be desirable to ensure greater impact.

108. Several delegations expressed general satisfaction with the mid-term review and noted the positive experience with national execution in the country. Some, however, felt that the programme could be further focused and that the areas of poverty eradication and grass-roots participation in development should be considered a priority in the programme. It was also recommended that the programme should concentrate on larger interventions under the programme approach and that small projects should be developed selectively in only upstream and high-impact areas.

109. In reply, UNDP noted that actions were being undertaken to focus the programme in India further and that, for the remainder of its duration, the programme would concentrate on sustainable environment management and poverty elimination. To enhance sustainability and accountability, major efforts had also been undertaken to introduce performance benchmarks against which the programme progress could be measured.

110. The Executive Board took note of the report as presented.

Mid-term review report of the fourth country programme for Indonesia

111. The Executive Board had before it document DP/1994/6/Add.3, which contained the report on the mid-term review of the fourth country programme for Indonesia.

112. Delegations made favourable comments on the report's frankness, high quality and comprehensiveness. The mid-term review process had reaffirmed the programme's general relevance and had resulted in sharpening its focus on poverty alleviation and environmental protection and natural resources management for the remaining period of the cycle. A few delegations noted the complementarity between UNDP-assisted programmes and their own bilateral activities.

113. Some delegations suggested that efforts may still be made to reduce further the number of programmes and projects and warned against symbolic reductions through rearranging existing activities. Several delegations requested UNDP to promote further the active participation of non-governmental and community-based organizations in implementing development activities and also to expand its activities as far as possible to other parts of the country. Others urged for more systematic integration of gender and environmental concerns into the development planning and programmes.

114. The representative of Indonesia stressed that his Government had always attached great importance to UNDP country programmes and assured the Executive Board of his Government's commitment to continuing cooperation with UNDP towards the effective utilization of programme resources as well as the implementation of the programme.

115. In response, UNDP explained current joint efforts being made by the Government and UNDP in promoting the participation of women, NGOs and the private sector in the development process, and gave assurance that measures were already being taken, both by the Government and UNDP, to further narrow the focus of the current programme, which would also have an effect on the next country programme.

116. The Executive Board took note of the report as presented.

Mid-term review of the fifth country programme for Zambia

117. The Executive Board had before it document DP/1994/6/Add.1, containing the report on the mid-term review of the fifth country programme for Zambia.

118. The mid-term review had reaffirmed the programme's general relevance and had resulted in its focus on capacity-building for economic and social management, support to private sector development, support to social sector development and support to agricultural development during the balance of the cycle. A few delegations noted that there were many activities in some of the subprogrammes and suggested some modifications for a more sharpened programme.

119. Some delegations noted that the activities of bilateral and other donors had not been included in the report. They suggested that efforts were needed to coordinate all the programmes in Zambia to avoid duplication.

120. Delegations noted the efforts being made by the Government to establish and/or strengthen national institutions for the execution of the programme. They stressed the need to retain trained manpower to ensure sustainability in programme implementation.

121. In response, UNDP explained that the programme was being adjusted in line with the policies and orientation of the new Government. The Bureau assured the Executive Board that it would continue to support the Government in the coordination of all the programmes in Zambia.

122. The representative of Zambia thanked the members of the Executive Board for supporting the programme and for their constructive comments on its improvement.

123. The Executive Board took note of the report as presented.

G. Reports on field visits: report on the field visit to Albania and Uzbekistan

124. The Executive Board discussed the report of the field visit to Albania and Uzbekistan from 9 to 23 August 1993.

125. Introducing the portion of the report dealing with Albania, the representative of Canada, who had served as one of the two rapporteurs of the team, spoke of the detailed substantive discussions the team had had with Government leaders and officials, donor representatives, NGO officials, the Resident Representative and his staff, locally based representatives of other United Nations agencies, and project personnel. He spoke also of the project visits the team had undertaken, especially into the rural areas. All of this had served to enhance the team members' understanding of the impact of, and salient issues involved in, the activities of UNDP and UNFPA in the country.

126. He drew attention to the massive and genuine political, economic and social transition the country was undergoing, in which the process of change had been and continued to be very challenging. One of those challenges was for the Government to develop a system of effective coordination of external assistance; another to pursue the concept of development planning and strategizing, with fuller community participation.

127. In his concluding remarks, the representative of Canada referred to a deterioration in 1993 in the active and high quality role OPS had played as an executing agency in the country. He believed that that appeared to be due to the OPS preoccupation with, and the attendant uncertainties of, the proposed merger with DDSMS.

128. The representative of Ecuador, speaking as the team's rapporteur for the portion of the report dealing with Uzbekistan, described the same level of broad-based discussions in Uzbekistan, including project visits, that the team had undertaken in Albania. He spoke of the country's potentials in its natural and mineral resources, notably in gold, oil, coal, gas, copper and silver. The country's rich cultural heritage carried further potentials for development. Yet its current social and economic predicaments were visibly reflected in its problems of poverty, malnutrition and high infant mortality rate.

129. Describing the Government's aim at achieving a market economy through a step-by-step process, he referred to UNDP and UNFPA complementary support to priority areas through training, orientation and national capacity-building efforts. He also highlighted efforts in fostering privatization and in building up the necessary capacity to exploit the country's rich potentials in cultural tourism.

130. Emphasizing regional collaboration in coping with common environmental hazards, especially of the sea, the representative of Ecuador described the establishment of the Committee on Environment, at a summit of the seven neighbouring countries held in 1983, which had created a workable structure, including a common fund, for that purpose.

131. The United Nations office, pursuing the "Integrated office" concept was endeavouring to provide useful service while working under limited budgetary cover. He drew attention especially to the need for strengthening the administrative capacity of the office, which had been found to be weak.

132. Members of the Executive Board, in discussing the report, felt that the gap of nine months in its submission was excessive and should be avoided in the consideration of reports of future field visits.

133. Members also discussed the questions of absorptive capacity which, it was explained, was noted in the bottlenecks in the governmental machineries and affected the timely utilization of international assistance. A more workable coordination mechanism should help alleviate the dilemma.

134. Responding to a question from one delegation, the Director of the Bureau for External Relations explained that lessons learned from field visits were indeed taken into account in general programming work. Dealing with the concern of other delegations for an early consideration of the report of the two field visits that had just taken place, one in Viet Nam and Philippines, the other in the West Bank, Gaza, and Jordan, he agreed that they could be considered during the annual session 1994 of the Executive Board, scheduled to take place in Geneva in June 1994. The Bureau of the Board would consider the possibility of doing so.

135. The Deputy Director of the Division for External Relations informed the Executive Board of the plans to organize the next field visit to Zimbabwe and Kenya during the second and third weeks of August 1994. He said that as soon as

confirmation of the preparedness of the Governments of both countries to receive the field visits came through, invitations would go out to members of the Board to nominate participants.

136. The Executive Board took note of the report.

VI. EVALUATION

137. The Board had before it the report of the Administrator on evaluation (DP/1994/24).

138. The Director of the Central Evaluation Office (CEO) highlighted key issues, and the substantive involvement of UNDP in the harmonization of monitoring and evaluation within the framework of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP), the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions (CCPOQ) and the Inter-Agency Working Group on Evaluation (IAWG). He outlined the initiatives currently under way to introduce effective feedback strategy in UNDP, including a system of programme performance audit to enhance programme quality and accountability. He noted that the establishment of the new Office of Evaluation and Strategic Planning in the near future would link strategic planning with central evaluation functions. Details would be provided by the Administrator at the 1994 annual session.

139. Noting the high quality and candid character of the feedback study, the Executive Board endorsed its findings and recommendations. They appreciated that the management of UNDP had already initiated actions to implement many key recommendations. The quantitative targets, indicators and results orientation reflected in the various guidelines developed by CEO were fully endorsed.

140. Attention was drawn by delegations to paragraph 2 of Governing Council decision 93/26, in which the Council requested the Administrator to include in his biennial report a statistical and qualitative analysis of evaluation reports. That would provide an important insight for the Board for their assessment of programme performance.

141. The Administrator's intention to combine the strategic planning with central evaluation functions in a new organizational unit reporting directly to him was noted. Delegations expected that those arrangements would mainstream evaluation with the decision-making process. Several delegations noted their expectation that those arrangements would strengthen the evaluation function and ensure its continued independence and transparency.

142. The importance of a common evaluation approach among the agencies and programmes of the United Nations system was stressed by some delegations. Accordingly, the Executive Board felt that, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/199 and in the context of the next triennial review of the operational activities of the United Nations development system, the Economic and Social Council should give special attention to ways and means for the relevant United Nations organs and agencies to implement joint, cost-effective and action-oriented evaluation mechanisms and to the relevant actions that need to be taken by the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC).

143. In response, the Director confirmed that in accordance with Governing Council decision 93/26, the next statistical analysis of evaluation reports would be presented to the Executive Board in 1995.

144. In introducing the programme performance audit system (PPAS), the Director assured the Board that due attention would be given to avoid any conflict or overlap with existing instruments of review, monitoring, evaluation and audit. Indeed, the PPAS was being introduced as part of an overall, integrated package for improved programme quality and effectiveness backed by accountability.

Thus, the purpose of the PPAS was to facilitate the introduction of results-based management by clarifying and reinforcing the concept of accountability and by introducing realistic performance indicators agreed upon by managers at all levels.

145. The harmonization of evaluation activities had been initiated earlier within the framework of IAWG, JCGP, and CCPOQ. UNDP had played a central role in the formulation of a common report on the harmonization of monitoring and evaluation systems among the JCGP institutions as well as in the preparation of a document providing for a common United Nations framework for developing guiding principles for monitoring and evaluation in the context of the programme approach.

146. In his concluding remarks, the Administrator noted his intention to strengthen further the evaluation function and link it to strategic planning so that it would contribute directly to policy formation and management decision.

147. The Board took note of the report of the Administrator on evaluation (DP/1994/24).

VII. OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

A. United Nations Volunteers (UNV)

148. The Executive Board had before it the report of the Administrator on the United Nations Volunteers (DP/1994/28).

149. Representatives expressed appreciation and endorsement for the newer roles of UNV in the continuum and in peace-keeping. It was stressed that these should be pursued in addition to the more traditional strengths of UNV in technical cooperation, especially in support of community-based initiatives. In the same spirit, representatives requested the Administrator to seek additional and assured funding for the Domestic Development Services (DDS) programme. Furthermore, UNV was urged to strengthen the approaches whereby the synergies between peace-related, humanitarian and longer-term development efforts could be exploited.

150. Representatives expressed support for the proposal to bring the Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN) programme under UNV administration in order to consolidate the management of all volunteer UNDP programmes in a form that would maintain the distinctive identity and profile of the TOKTEN programme and volunteers.

151. Assurances were given by the UNV Executive Coordinator that commitments on a fully funded basis, made from Special Voluntary Fund general purpose resources, on the basis of written pledges, would be managed conservatively and remain within the reserve provided by available balances.

152. The Executive Board adopted the following decision:

94/9. United Nations Volunteers

The Executive Board

1. Notes the range of roles being undertaken by the United Nations Volunteers, encompassing its participation in the full development-humanitarian relief-peace continuum as described in the report of the Administrator (DP/1994/28);

2. Invites the Administrator to designate the United Nations Volunteers as manager of the Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals initiative in addition to the United Nations International Short-Term Advisory Resources programme, which has already merged with the United Nations Volunteers;

3. Authorizes the United Nations Volunteers to commit funds, on a fully funded basis, on receipt of written pledges rather than on receipt of the funds, as concerns the general purpose component of the Special Voluntary Fund; and

4. Requests the Administrator to continue to seek more financial resources for assured and firm funding for the Domestic Development Services programme.

13 May 1994

B. United Nations International Short-Term Advisory Resources (UNISTAR)

153. Representatives welcomed the efficiency created by placing the United Nations International Short-Term Advisory Resources (UNISTAR) under UNV management. They also appreciated the fact that UNISTAR continued to maintain its distinct identity and programme focus and requested the Administrator to exercise creative means to provide growth to the programme as well as to encourage special contributions from the private and public sectors.

154. The Executive Board adopted the following decision:

94/7. United Nations International Short-Term Advisory Resources

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the Report of the Administrator on the United Nations International Short-Term Advisory Resources programme;

2. Requests the Administrator to explore creative means to support the continued growth of the United Nations International Short-Term Advisory Resources programme, including the application of funding, where appropriate, from the Special Programme Resources, in areas where the programme is conducting innovative and experimental work in support of sustainable human development;

3. Requests the Administrator to encourage special contributions from the private and public sectors of developed and developing countries to the United Nations Volunteers Special Voluntary Fund for innovative United Nations International Short-Term Advisory Resources activities.

12 May 1994

C. United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

155. Several delegations encouraged UNCDF to continue its efforts to broaden its resource base towards non-traditional sources of funding. Some delegations stated that their governments would be increasing their contribution to the Fund during 1994 while several others reaffirmed their Government's continued support.

156. A number of delegations expressed interest at the Administrator's proposal for a larger, more vital UNCDF. While some questioned the financial viability of such a proposal, others endorsed the comparative advantage and specificity of UNCDF as a capital assistance facility.

157. Specific issues pertaining to the possibility of accessing funds from multilateral development banks for micro-credit programmes, the expansion of UNCDF loan activities, and the new role of UNCDF as the community development arm of UNDP were noted for further consideration in conjunction with future reports of the Administrator on UNCDF activities.

158. The Executive Board took note of the report and encouraged UNCDF to continue its efforts to identify increased sources of financing, including those from non-traditional donors.

D. United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration (UNRFNRE), United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development (UNFSTD) and Transfer of Technology through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN)

159. The Secretariat provided information to the Executive Board on the very precarious financial situation of both Funds and made reference to the fact that there was broad agreement to move the responsibilities of TOKTEN modality to the UNV in order to consolidate the management of all volunteer programmes.

160. A question was raised with regard to the financing of science and technology in the wider context of the United Nations system - for example, through the Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council - particularly with reference to the concept of the coalition of resources. The Secretariat explained that UNDP activities in science and technology clearly went beyond UNFSTD and that UNDP intended to continue to play a role in that respect. The major donor to UNRFNRE confirmed the willingness of his Government to continue to contribute to the Fund and urged other donors to do the same.

161. The Executive Board took note of the report of the Administrator on the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration, the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development and the Transfer of Technology through Expatriate Nationals (DP/1994/29).

VIII. OTHER MATTERS

A. Participation of UNDP in the restructured Global Environment Facility (GEF II)

162. In his introduction of the topic, the President of the Executive Board noted the extensive negotiations on the restructuring of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which had culminated in Geneva in March 1994, when participating States accepted the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility (GEF II). The UNDP Executive Coordinator for the GEF then presented a summary of the history of the restructuring process, including the results of the pilot phase and its independent evaluation. He commented on the replenishment and outlined UNDP responsibilities in the operational GEF. In his presentation, the Executive Coordinator explained that, throughout the restructuring process, the implementing agencies had been exhorted to broaden access to the GEF to a wide range of organizations, including NGOs. By means of improving existing procedures and regulations, it would be possible to provide a range of options for their participation in the GEF Work Programme, including the execution of projects.

163. The numerous delegations who commented all expressed their support for UNDP to serve as an implementing agency of the GEF and for the adoption of the Instrument in its present form. Appreciation was expressed for the role of UNDP in facilitating the process of negotiations leading to the acceptance of the Instrument. Delegations also expressed their desire that the Executive Board be regularly informed on the implementation of GEF, including UNDP strategies and operational plans. It was noted by a delegation that GEF initiatives addressed global issues and that incremental costs were a factor to be considered in the design of GEF projects and programmes.

164. The Executive Board adopted the Instrument as the basis for the participation of the United Nations Development Programme as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility.

B. Statement by the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)

165. The Executive Director of UNFPA and Secretary-General of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) briefed Executive Board members on the outcome of the recently concluded third and final Preparatory Committee session for the ICPD.

C. Proposals relating to the 1994 annual session

1. Deadlines for submission of documentation

166. One representative announced that a proposal would be introduced at the 1994 annual session, according to which the six weeks rule for submission of documentation would be changed to three weeks for substantive reports and five weeks for country programmes, respectively. Documents presented later than those deadlines could be considered if Members so wished but any decision-taking based on those reports should be deferred to the following session. Several delegations expressed their agreement in principle with the proposal.

2. Distribution of Executive Board documentation in electronic form

167. One representative requested information to be provided regarding the costs involved of the distribution of Executive Board documentation in electronic form.

3. Preparation for discussion of future of UNDP

168. In reply to a question raised, the Secretary of the Executive Board gave assurance that the statement of the Administrator in the form of a document would be distributed before the 1994 annual session. One representative requested annotations indicating relevant mandates.

169. In his concluding remarks, the Administrator said that at the 1994 annual session the question would be whether Members were willing to make reforms and engage in basic thinking on how UNDP could be of most service within the United Nations. The changes the Administrator would propose at the annual session would follow inevitably from the statement he had given at the first regular session in February 1994.

D. Conclusion of the session

170. At the end of the session, the President introduced a draft decision providing an overview of decisions taken at the session as a new element in the work of the Executive Board. It had been a productive session. The Board had adopted several decisions on particular subjects and also a number of decisions on various matters on which there was no need for individual decision numbers. For practical reasons, it was suggested that the Board adopt a decision in which it would identify all decisions taken during the session. Such an overview decision would be given a number of its own and would enable the Board easily to see what country programmes it had approved, what reports it had taken note of or any other decision taken. The overview was a compilation of decisions already taken. The President concluded by saying that his summing up was contained in the draft overview decision.

171. The Executive Board concluded its work by adopting the following decision:

94/10. Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its second regular session 1994

The Executive Board

Recalls that during the second regular session 1994 it:

ITEM 1: ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Approved the agenda and work plan for its second regular session 1994 (DP/1994/L.2);

Approved the report of the first regular session 1994 (DP/1994/2);

Decided to abolish the summary records for its annual sessions;

ITEM 2: OFFICE FOR PROJECT SERVICES

Decided to defer decision-taking to the 1994 annual session and to hold open-ended informal consultations on this subject before the 1994 annual session;

ITEM 3: PROGRAMME-LEVEL ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ASSISTANCE

Took note of the report on the role of UNDP in humanitarian affairs (DP/1994/13);

Adopted decision 94/6 of 10 May 1994 on the United Nations joint and co-sponsored programme on HIV/AIDS;

ITEM 4: MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMMING CYCLES

Adopted decision 94/8 of 13 May 1994 on the granting of indicative planning figure to Albania;

ITEM 5: COUNTRY PROGRAMMES, MID-TERM REVIEWS AND RELATED MATTERS

Approved the following country programmes:

Fourth country programme for Albania (DP/CP/ALB/4)

Fifth country programme for Guyana (DP/CP/GUY/5)

Fifth country programme for the Islamic Republic of Iran (DP/CP/IRA/5)

Sixth country programme for Kenya (DP/CP/KEN/6)

Fifth country programme for Madagascar (DP/CP/MAG/5)

First country programme for Slovakia (DP/CP/SLO/1)

Authorized the Administrator to approve projects on a case-by-case basis for the following countries: Angola (DP/1994/8); Congo (DP/1994/21); Togo (DP/1994/42); Zaire (DP/1994/43);

Took note of the following reports: (a) Advancement of the fifth country programme for the United Republic of Tanzania (DP/1994/15); (b) Review of the fourth country programme for Equatorial Guinea (DP/1994/30);

Considered the report on assistance to the Union of Myanmar (DP/1994/17); the views expressed are reflected in the report of the session;

Took note of the report on assistance to Cambodia (DP/1994/25) and approved an advance commitment of an additional $12 million as suggested in paragraph 18 of the report;

Took note of the third intercountry programme for the Arab States (DP/RAB/3);

Took note of the report on progress and results of UNDP efforts in Somalia (DP/1994/3);

Took note of the report on impact of the overall enabling environment of the Sudan on the implementation of the fourth country programme (DP/1994/16);

Took note of the report on the field visit to Albania and Uzbekistan (DP/1994/CRP.1);

Mid-term review reports

Took note of the arrangements for submission of mid-term reviews (DP/1994/6 and DP/1994/41);

Took note of the mid-term review reports on: (a) Fifth country programme for Zambia (DP/1994/6/Add.1); (b) Fourth country programme for Cape Verde (DP/1994/41/Add.1); (c) Fourth country programme for India (DP/1994/6/Add.2); (d) Fourth country programme for Indonesia (DP/1994/6/Add.3); (e) Third country programme for China (DP/1994/41/Add.2);

ITEM 6: EVALUATION

Took note of the annual report on evaluation (DP/1994/24);

ITEM 7: OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

Adopted decision 94/9 of 13 May 1994 on United Nations Volunteers,

Adopted decision 94/7 of 12 May 1994 on United Nations International Short-Term Advisory Resources;

Took note of the report on: (a) United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development; (b) United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration; (c) Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals (DP/1994/29);

Took note of the report on the United Nations Capital Development Fund (DP/1994/33) and encouraged the Fund to continue its efforts to identify increased sources of financing, including those from non-traditional donors;

ITEM 8: OTHER MATTERS

Adopted the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility (GEF II) as the basis for the participation of UNDP as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility (DP/1994/60).

13 May 1994

Part three

ANNUAL SESSION

Held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 6 to 16 June 1994

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

1. On 6 June 1994, the Executive Board adopted the following agenda for its annual session 1994, as contained in document DP/1994/L.3:

Item 1: Organizational matters

Item 2: Annual report of the Administrator and related matters

Item 3: Future of UNDP

Item 4: Matters relating to the programming cycles

Item 5: Location of UNDP/UNFPA headquarters

Item 6: UNFPA: Annual report of the Executive Director and programme-level activities

Item 7: UNFPA: Country programmes and related matters

Item 8: United Nations technical cooperation activities

Item 9: Office for Project Services

Item 10: Other matters

2. The Executive Board decided not to consider item 5 above and to postpone, the consideration of item 8 to its third regular session in October 1994. The Executive Board also decided to include a request from the Government of South Africa to be given recipient status under item 4. With these changes, the Board agreed to the work plan as contained in document DP/1994/L.3.

3. On 9 June 1994, the Executive Board approved the report on the second regular session, held in New York from 10-13 May 1994, with the comments received (DP/1994/9 and Corr.1).

4. On 13 June 1994, the Executive Board agreed on the work plan for the UNFPA segment with the changes suggested, including the decision of the Board taken on 9 June 1994 to postpone its consideration of the field visit reports to the third regular session. The Board agreed that future field visit reports should be considered only at regular sessions.

5. The Executive Board agreed to decide on the dates for future sessions at its third regular session 1994 on the basis of the following tentative schedule:

Regular session: 10-13 January 1995

Regular session: 24-26 April 1995

Annual session: 5-16 June 1995

Regular session: 25-29 September 1995.

6. At the conclusion of the session, the Executive Board approved the draft report on the annual session 1994 with the comments received (DP/1994/L.4 and Add.1-16).

Documentation

7. In response to the request received from one delegation at the second regular session, the secretariat made available information on the distribution of Executive Board documentation in electronic form.

8. Two delegations expressed deep concern that the item on United Nations technical cooperation activities, which was of great importance to developing countries, could not be examined because the documentation was not available.

9. The Executive Board discussed the issue of the timeliness of documentation. One representative suggested that Board documents should not be distributed until available in all languages unless conference services had not been able to produce documents in all languages within the five- and three-week rules established by the Board at its current session.

10. The Executive Board adopted the following decision:

94/24. Documentation

The Executive Board

1. Decides that, pending the establishment of and without prejudice to the contents of the new rules of procedure, when reports to the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board have not been submitted to the United Nations Office of Conference Services for translation into all official languages seven weeks (nine weeks in the case of country programmes) before the start of the session in which they are to be discussed, the relevant agenda items will be postponed until the next session of the Board unless the Board takes a decision at any stage to retain an item on the agenda on an exceptional basis.

16 June 1994

II. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR AND RELATED MATTERS

A. Annual report of the Administrator

11. The annual report of the Administrator (DP/1994/10 and Add.1-5 and DP/1994/Add.2/Corr.2) served as background information for the discussion of agenda items 3 and 4. It was therefore considered that a separate debate on the report was not needed.

12. One delegation noted the difficulties in reconciling the statistical information contained in the summary with that contained in the detailed listings of document DP/1994/10/Add.3. In this connection, the delegation queried the appropriateness of combining data on intergovernmental organizations with data concerning individual countries.

13. In response to questions raised, the secretariat noted that while experience with the programme approach remained limited, a number of tools and initiatives had been developed in the course of 1993 that would facilitate its application in most programming initiatives. It was also noted that the illustrated UNDP annual report would continue to be published as in previous years.

14. The Executive Board took note of the annual report of the Administrator (DP/1994/10 and Add.1-5) as presented.

15. A number of delegations, under various agenda items, expressed reservations about the 1994 Human Development Report, cautioning UNDP not to exceed its mandate in the economic and social spheres. One representative expressed concern about the increasing importance being attached to the Human Development Report, which had no legislative mandate from the Executive Board. Another suggested that, to minimize the controversy surrounding the reports, UNDP might want to consider a joint pre-publication review of each report by Member States and the editorial team. The Administrator said that he would take all comments into consideration and in the future ensure a more systematic peer review process in the preparation of the report.

16. The Executive Board adopted the following decision:

94/15. 1994 Human Development Report

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the observations of a number of delegations at the 1994 annual session with regard to the 1994 Human Development Report;

2. Welcomes the Administrator's intention to improve the process of consultation with Member States and other relevant international bodies to refine the methodologies used in the report with a view towards improving its quality and accuracy without compromising its editorial independence;

3. Takes note of the Administrator's intention to report back to the Board on this issue at its annual session 1995.

10 June 1994

B. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199

17. In introducing the report contained in document DP/1994/22, the Director of the Bureau for Programme Policy and Evaluation (BPPE) noted that General Assembly resolution 47/199 applied to the operational activities of the United Nations development system as a whole. Consequently, UNDP approached its implementation as a collective endeavour, involving the programme countries as well as the United Nations development system. A more comprehensive report would be submitted by the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council at its June 1994 session, in line with paragraph 54 of the resolution.

18. Some delegations expressed concern about the slow pace of implementing the resolution throughout the United Nations development system as a whole, an issue which would be raised at the next session of the Economic and Social Council.

19. Note was taken of the increased use of the modality of national execution although UNDP was cautioned against substituting the Office for Project Services (OPS) for national execution in nationally executed projects. One delegation requested an evaluation of UNDP experience with national execution to date.

20. Representatives suggested that decentralization and delegation of authority to the country offices be accompanied by appropriate management and accountability control mechanisms. A brief paper describing the "Ten point decentralization" package developed by UNDP was also requested.

21. While conceding the importance of the country strategy notes, a few delegations emphasized that the notes must not be imposed on recipient countries.

22. Under this agenda item, delegations referred to the 1994 Human Development Report. Their comments are contained in section II.A of the present report.

23. In response to questions raised, the Secretariat noted that the vast majority of resident coordinators were committed to implementing resolution 47/199 in their countries of service.

24. It was also explained that the country strategy note was being undertaken only in countries that so desired, as specified by the resolution. Examples of country strategy notes prepared so far would be made available to the Executive Board at its third regular session. Similarly, a brief report on the "Ten point decentralization" package would also be made available at that time.

25. The Executive Board took note of the report of the Administrator (DP/1994/22), as presented.

C. Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

26. In introducing the report contained in document DP/1994/11, the Director, BPPE, mentioned that special efforts had been made during the previous year to strengthen collaboration agreements with a number of important partners, including United Nations agencies, the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), other sectors of civil society and indigenous groups. Measures had been taken to strengthen UNDP capacities in a number of areas, including the strengthening of the Global Environment Facility and the Montreal Protocol units, the training of UNDP personnel, and the recruitment of

41 sustainable development National Officers. Efforts were under way to strengthen the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office in order that UNDP might play an important support role in the implementation of the Convention on Desertification currently under negotiation. Furthermore, new initiatives were planned in the areas of sustainable development strategies, trade and environment, and environmental economics.

27. Many delegations commented and expressed their thanks for the special presentation on Capacity 21. While reiterating their support for Capacity 21, they requested that in his next report, the Administrator should present details on the impact that Capacity 21 was having in supporting changes in decision-making at the national level and in mobilizing additional resources.

28. Many representatives felt that more emphasis needed to be placed in making national programmes fully participatory, including a greater role by NGOs and women groups. There was also a call to UNDP to ensure that the target of 40 per cent for least developed countries be fully met in the near future.

29. Regarding the Environmental Management Guidelines, several delegations expressed their support for UNDP efforts to incorporate good environmental management practices and commented on their high expectations on the role of the sustainable development National Officers.

30. Representatives pointed out the important role to be played by UNDP in the implementation and management of the Global Environment Facility and the Montreal Protocol as well as in the area of drought and desertification control.

31. The Executive Board took note of the report contained in document DP/1994/11 as presented.

D. Role of UNDP in the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

32. In introducing document DP/1994/12, the Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa highlighted two areas of activity of UNDP in Africa: aid coordination and support to governance initiatives. UNDP assistance in the area of governance was restricted to the provision of technical cooperation to build the necessary institutional infrastructure strictly in accordance with country priorities and upon the request of the Government.

33. Representatives commended the support UNDP was giving to African development efforts and welcomed the ongoing mid-term reviews of the National Long-term Perspective Studies and the African Capacity-Building Foundation. They expressed interest in receiving the related reports at the third regular session 1994 of the Executive Board.

34. Some delegations called on UNDP to focus its activities to achieve greater impact. One representative strongly encouraged UNDP to undertake an in-depth study of the main programmes, especially the national technical cooperation assessment and programmes (NATCAP) exercise and to consider reporting to the Executive Board on a limited number of activities at each session rather than reviewing all of its activities each year.

35. Some representatives referred to the declining levels of resources available for African programmes and called for efforts to address the situation.

36. The Executive Board adopted the following decision:

94/13. Role of the United Nations Development Programme in the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator contained in document DP/1994/12;

2. Encourages the Administrator, African countries and the international community to continue to support the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s;

3. Also encourages the United Nations Development Programme to continue to participate in dialogue on resolving Africa's debt problems;

4. Requests the Administrator to report annually to the Executive Board on the role of the United Nations Development Programme in the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

9 June 1994

III. FUTURE OF UNDP

37. The Administrator introduced the item, stating that the first annual session of the Executive Board constituted a watershed in the governance of UNDP, which had already led to a far more intimate consultative relationship between the Members and UNDP. He explained that his official statement was contained in document DP/1994/39, entitled "Initiatives for change". The Administrator reaffirmed the underlying principles of UNDP: universality, neutrality and non-conditionality, and the grant nature of its assistance. He stated that UNDP looked forward to working with all of its programme countries on the basis of their national priorities. The five reasons for change were as follows: a changing world; critique of official development assistance (ODA); a changing United Nations following the end of the Cold War; assessments of UNDP that pointed out the lack of clear mission and focus; and changes in financial resources, with a declining share of ODA and with increasing needs for emergency humanitarian and peace-keeping purposes.

38. What the Administrator sought in the "Initiatives for change" paper was to forge several emerging concepts and issues into a clearer mission and focus for the organization. The focus was built on the framework of sustainable human development, which had been developed in response to national priorities, and constituted an attempt to address the most crucial issues facing countries in their development. It was based on the frameworks established by the General Assembly and the Governing Council and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

39. The Administrator underlined that the concept of sustainable human development was in no way inconsistent with the sovereign right of countries to determine their own priorities nor did it imply the establishment of any form of conditionality. Rather, the establishment of focus areas allowed UNDP to serve better, with greater effectiveness, areas determined by Governments themselves as being of highest priority and urgency. This mission had been outlined at the February 1994 Board session of the Executive Board. The initiative for change contained a series of measures that the Administrator was proposing to strengthen UNDP and its ability to serve programme countries. His aim was to propose measures that built on the guidance which the Board had given him in the past.

40. The Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Development Support and Management Services (DDSMS) addressed the Executive Board. DDSMS greatly welcomed the priorities for UNDP action, as expressed in the "Initiatives for change" paper. He shared with the Administrator the importance of collaboration between UNDP and DDSMS, as both entities were undergoing restructuring. DDSMS was developing closer links, he explained, citing the joint task force on strengthened substantive support to UNDP.

41. Delegations expressed their broad support for and appreciation of the Administrator's initiative. His ideas were innovative and forward-looking, some delegations stated, and based on solid convictions. Most congratulated the Administrator for the progress in defining the future of UNDP and for his explanation of the organization's goals and thematic priorities. The intellectual effort applied to examination of the future of UNDP was commendable. It clearly fulfilled the programme of action promised to the Executive Board by the Administrator at its first regular session. Several delegations noted that sustainable human development was completely in line with their own national objectives. Many called it an excellent set of initiatives and underlined their general agreement with the goals and patterns of action

specified. Some delegations said it could be an important input to the implementation of the Secretary-General's Agenda for development. The concept of sustainable human development was generally welcomed by speakers, with some requesting further clarification on how it would be put into practice. Several speakers asked for a clear definition of focus and a time-frame for implementation. The need for reference to national priorities was also emphasized. A few delegations noted that the sustainable human development paradigm could not be applied uniformly to all countries.

42. Regarding the areas of focus and patterns of UNDP action contained in the Administrator's report, some delegations cautioned that UNDP should not become involved in political issues and human rights questions and underlined the need for respect of State sovereignty regarding governance. The four areas outlined were broad and several delegations expressed the need for a clear programme. The focus could be complemented with the country strategy note, one delegation noted. With regard to the special initiatives mentioned in the Administrator's report, while some delegations asked if UNDP had a comparative advantage in the area of food security, one representative suggested that food security could even be a fifth focus objective. In reassuring delegations regarding the issues raised, the Administrator re-emphasized the neutrality and non-conditionality of UNDP assistance.

43. Several delegations stated that UNDP must spend carefully during the current period of limited resources, with one delegation specifying the need to invest better in human capital. One delegation suggested a more flexible allocation of resources than that currently used in the indicative planning figure (IPF) system.

44. There was widespread support for the task forces established with United Nations system development partners. It was asked that UNDP deepen its partnerships with other United Nations agencies and other entities and emphasize a rational division of labour. Several delegations enunciated strong support for the role of UNDP in coordination at the country level and asked for the strengthening of the Resident Coordinator function. Some delegations stated that sustainable human development provided the right framework for strengthened aid coordination. Several underlined the importance of General Assembly resolution 47/199 as a tool for coordination. Institutional changes included in the Administrator's report were generally supported. One delegation requested UNDP to provide a new organizational chart and corporate plan based on the changes.

45. Under this agenda item, delegations referred to the 1994 Human Development Report. Their comments are contained in section II.A of the present report.

46. The Administrator responded to questions from delegations throughout the discussion. He emphasized that the goals and objectives of UNDP would continue to be developed and shared with the Executive Board.

47. One representative proposed that the Administrator should be encouraged to undertake the necessary adjustments of various units, such as the Division for Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, as part of the organizational restructuring to enhance the ability of UNDP to fulfil its mission.

48. The Executive Board adopted the following decision:

94/14. Future of UNDP

The Executive Board

1. Commends the Administrator on his report entitled "Initiatives for change" (DP/1994/39), and welcomes the initiatives proposed therein;

2. Supports the global framework for the United Nations Development Programme set out in the report and agrees that the overall mission of UNDP should be to assist programme countries in their endeavour to realize sustainable human development, in line with their national development programmes and priorities;

3. Encourages the Administrator to continue his efforts to focus the programme of UNDP by operationalizing the three goals and four priority areas outlined in the report, taking into account the views expressed at the 1994 annual session and the ongoing discussions on the successor arrangements to the fifth programming cycle;

4. Emphasizes that national development priorities shall be the primary determinant of UNDP-supported programmes, which must remain country-driven;

5. Takes note of the organizational restructuring proposed by the Administrator to enhance the ability of UNDP to fulfil its mission, and encourages the Administrator to undertake the necessary adjustments to this end;

6. Requests the Administrator to report back to the Executive Board at the 1995 annual session on his progress in moving the agenda of UNDP forward as outlined in paragraph 3 of the present decision.

10 June 1994

IV. MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMMING CYCLES

A. Fifth programming cycle

49. The Administrator introduced the report on this item (DP/1994/18). He stated that the purpose of the mid-term review of the fifth programming cycle was to seek the authority of the Executive Board to adjust existing programming levels in line with the current resource outlook, as well as to take actions to support the initiatives for change and the transition to the next programming period. He briefly highlighted the proposals for the consideration of the Board as summarized in paragraph 31 of document DP/1994/18.

50. There was broad support for the Administrator's proposals. Many delegations, however, regretted the decline in resources that had necessitated the reduction of IPFs and Special Programme Resources (SPR) by 30 per cent from the originally established levels. Several delegations called special attention to the disruptive impact those reductions would have on both planned and ongoing programmes. There was general agreement that more predictability was required in resource mobilization and planning, an issue that could be considered in the context of the discussions of the next programming period. In that regard, some delegations questioned whether it was realistic to use a 4 per cent growth rate in voluntary contributions for 1995 and 1996.

51. Delegations noted the importance of the SPR during the first half of the fifth cycle and its positive contributions towards promoting the six areas of concentration stipulated in Governing Council decision 90/34. There was consensus that the additional programming flexibility requested by the Administrator to redeploy remaining resources within each SPR category was both acceptable and necessary, especially in view of the limited amount of unprogrammed SPR resources remaining in the fifth cycle.

52. There was also general support for the borrowing arrangements proposed by the Administrator. One delegation suggested that resources be shifted from inactive country programmes to other country programmes, as a move away from the entitlement concept that had emerged over time. Several other delegations indicated that those countries unable to spend their full IPFs during the fifth cycle should continue to have access to those resources in future years.

53. The transfer of unutilized resources from TSS-2 to TSS-1 and the establishment of a technical support facility for the smaller technical agencies were supported by several delegations. Other delegations, while generally supporting those proposals, wondered whether it might be preferable to postpone their consideration to the October 1994 session of the Executive Board, when the subject of support costs was scheduled for review.

54. The Executive Board adopted the following decision:

94/16. Mid-term review of the fifth programming cycle

The Executive Board

1. Notes the revised resource framework for the fifth cycle as set out in document DP/1994/18;

2. Approves the expenditure targets specified for indicative planning figures and Special Programme Resources as outlined in table 1 of document DP/1994/18;

3. Approves revised indicative planning figures for individual countries and programmes and Special Programme Resources as set out respectively in tables 2 and 3 of document DP/1994/18, at 70 per cent of originally established levels, while urging the Administrator to continue his endeavour to find resources to enable the restoration of indicative planning figures to the original levels and report back on the results of his efforts to the Board at its next regular session;

4. Authorizes the Administrator to redeploy resources within each Special Programme Resources programme category as set out in paragraph 16 of document DP/1994/18, excluding region-specific subprogrammes;

5. Approves borrowing arrangements as set out in paragraph 19 of document DP/1994/18;

6. Takes note of the proposals of the Administrator to redeploy resources within the revised earmarkings for support cost arrangements, described in section II D of document DP/1994/18, but defers consideration to the October session 1994 of the Board, when the subject of support cost arrangements is to be reviewed.

10 June 1994

B. Sixth programming cycle

55. The Director, Bureau for External Relations (BER), introduced document DP/1994/20, explaining that it was intended to facilitate discussion of issues related to successor arrangements to the current programming cycle, which were scheduled to be established in June 1995. At the conceptual stage, the paper did not present explicit options but rather sought direction on the principles that should guide future technical studies and consultations. It was suggested that discussion of the subject be divided into three clusters: programming objectives; financial mechanisms; and resource distribution.

56. Delegations expressed their appreciation for the comprehensive and useful document. Several delegations stated that comments at the current stage should be considered preliminary and that a process to continue consultations would have to be determined.

Programming objectives

57. Many speakers noted that programming objectives should be linked to the future role of UNDP, which had been discussed in the context of the "Initiatives for change" paper (DP/1994/39). A number of delegations reiterated that programming should be in line with national priorities, in recognition of the diversity of development needs.

58. Many delegations stated that the principles of universality, neutrality, multilateralism and the voluntary and grant nature of assistance should remain fundamental to the various elements of the UNDP programming framework.

Financing mechanisms

59. While many delegations recognized the problems and risks associated with the present system, several representatives pointed out that some of the deficiencies were not inherent to the machinery itself. Some delegations encouraged an exploration of alternative financing mechanisms, noting the relevance to that work of the General Assembly's upcoming deliberations relating to resolution 48/162.

60. Many delegations expressed strong concern about the decline in core contributions, which were essential for the main mission of UNDP, and requested the Administrator to intensify efforts to increase core resources.

61. Noting the considerable increase in non-core funding, several delegations requested more information on core and non-core resource trends. Two delegations stated that the Executive Board should consider whether its decision on future programming should cover both core and non-core resources.

62. Many speakers commented on the duration of the programming cycle and ways of reducing its programmatic and financial risks. While some delegations suggested that the current five-year duration of the cycle should not be shortened, many representatives favoured exploring a reduced duration. Additionally, several delegations supported the concept of a rolling IPF system and requested that the matter be explored in detail. A few representatives suggested that options not involving a priori distribution of funds should also be examined.

Resource distribution

63. With respect to the distribution methodology, some delegations favoured an examination of alternative determinants. Several representatives suggested that the current methodology, based mainly on tested criteria, including population and per capita gross national product (GNP), should be continued and refined through a revision and possible expansion of the supplementary criteria and adjustment of various calculation weights.

64. On funding distribution, there was general agreement that lower-income countries should receive priority. A number of representatives highlighted the special needs of certain countries such as small island developing nations and economies in transition. Many delegations also recognized that modest IPFs can serve as a critical catalyst for additional resource mobilization.

65. The possibility of increasing SPR allocations received favourable reaction although many delegates emphasized that existing SPR programmes would require in-depth review and evaluation. There was also support for exploring increased allocations for regional and intercountry programmes, with a number of delegates noting the complementarity between national and international agendas. The Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization appealed for a share of resources to be reserved for science and technology and for increased regional allocations.

66. Several delegations supported the examination of the net contributor country (NCC) criteria, including alternative thresholds and the possibility of linking reimbursability of IPFs to mobilization of additional funding.

67. The Executive Board adopted the following decision:

94/17. Issues relating to the sixth programming cycle

The Executive Board

1. Reaffirms the principles of eligibility of all recipient countries on the basis of the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities of the United Nations Development System, which are, inter alia, universality, neutrality, multilateralism, the voluntary and grant nature of assistance and the capacity to respond to the needs of all recipient countries in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development;

2. Notes that the debate on the future role of the United Nations Development Programme is closely linked with the process leading to a decision on the next programming period;

3. Considers document DP/1994/20 an important contribution to consultations on establishing the structure of the next programming period of the United Nations Development Programme, and notes that it identifies the following clusters of issues:

(a) Programming objectives;

(b) Resource distribution;

(c) Financing mechanisms;

4. Decides to continue its consideration of these issues at its upcoming regular sessions, with a view to reaching a final decision on the next programming period at its 1995 annual session;

5. Requests the Administrator to outline a possible structure of further deliberations and to prepare further documentation for the third regular sessio of the Board, addressing in particular the following points:

(a) The development of the Administrator's "Initiatives for change" as he intends to apply them to the next programming period;

(b) Options for the revision of the indicative planning figure programmin framework;

(c) Options for the revision of resource distribution methodology, including:

(i) Eligibility criteria and graduation;

(ii) Supplementary criteria and weights.

10 June 1994

C. South Africa

68. Following the introduction of the note of the Administrator (DP/1994/38) transmitting a request from the Republic of South Africa to be given recipient status, the representative of South Africa presented the request to the Executive Board, emphasizing the efforts of his Government to redress the

imbalances within the country and outlining the programme for the socio-economic and human development of South Africa. He expressed appreciation of UNDP support to date and looked forward to continued collaboration in future.

69. Speaking on behalf of their respective regions, the representatives of Bulgaria, Cuba, Gambia, Norway and Pakistan all welcomed the request of the Republic of South Africa and supported the Administrator's recommendation contained in document DP/1994/38.

70. The Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa explained the administrative and budgetary arrangements for the setting up of a UNDP office in South Africa. She explained further that programme development in the country would be carried out in close cooperation with the Government, taking into account other development activities being undertaken in the country.

71. The Executive Board adopted the following decision:

94/11. Matters relating to the programming cycles: South Africa

The Executive Board

1. Welcomes the Republic of South Africa as recipient country in the United Nations Development Programme;

2. Decides to authorize the Administrator to allocate an indicative planning figure of $10 million to the Republic of South Africa for the remaining period of the fifth cycle, as recommended in annex II of document DP/1994/38.

8 June 1994

V. LOCATION OF UNDP/UNFPA HEADQUARTERS

72. On 6 June 1994, the Executive Board decided not to consider this agenda item.

VI. UNFPA: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PROGRAMME-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

A. Annual report of the Executive Director

73. The Executive Director introduced the annual report of UNFPA for 1993 (document DP/1994/44). She noted selected financial and programme highlights provided on pages 2 to 4 of the report, including information on income levels for 1993, the projected resource situation for 1994, the percentage of allocations to priority countries, as well as pertinent aspects of the Fund's efforts to improve the quality of its programme activities and of its technical assistance. These included, among other things, the promotion of family planning within a broader context of reproductive health-care services and the empowerment of women in terms of reproductive rights and reproductive freedom.

74. Following a brief introduction of the business before the Council, the Executive Director presented some thoughts on UNFPA's future role, reflecting in particular on the Programme of Action that would likely emerge from the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) being held in Cairo, Egypt, in September 1994. She said the draft document provided a number of important directions for UNFPA. The overarching goals of the Fund would remain the total and explicit integration of population considerations into all plans and strategies for sustainable development.

75. The single most important theme emerging from the ICPD process had been the importance of empowering women, both as an end in itself and as a prerequisite for achieving sustainable development. Given the immensely important role that education played in empowering women, UNFPA would try to accelerate its advocacy to intensify efforts to educate girls. A significant outcome of the ICPD, with implications for UNFPA, would be a broader definition of sexual and reproductive health, the application of which the Fund would promote worldwide. She said that particular attention would be given to areas that had been neglected in the past, including reproductive-tract infections, sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, and infertility, among others.

76. Numerous delegations welcomed the new format of the Executive Director's annual report, in particular the more analytical approach, the use of lessons learned in support of the analysis, and the focus on vital thematic issues. A number of delegations appreciated the self-critical evaluation of important themes, noting that such objective analysis was a necessary first step to improving outcomes of projects and programmes. Several, however, recommended that future reports should have a more strategic focus and be output- or results-based. One delegation would have preferred a different style of report - one that provided more detail on the activities of the year, as well as a vision for the future and the personal views of the Executive Director. Another thought the report would have been more useful had it analysed UNFPA's progress and performance during the year in delivering its key outputs.

77. Delegations strongly supported UNFPA's efforts to broaden the scope of its programme to encompass a more comprehensive approach to family planning as part of reproductive health care. They also welcomed efforts to make the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, an integral component of reproductive health. Many, however, wished to know more about how UNFPA was addressing the strategic and programmatic implications of this commitment. More specifically, several delegations inquired: (a) whether the Fund had developed indicators to assess the quality of reproductive health care;

and (b) to what extent the Fund had been able to operationalize the concept of reproductive health care.

78. Numerous delegations focused on specific items covered in the report. Many welcomed the attention given to cost-recovery schemes and private-sector participation in family planning programmes. Several noted, however, that efforts in these areas appeared to be somewhat inconclusive. They therefore asked if UNFPA was committed to ensuring access to family planning services through private as well as public channels. Delegations endorsed UNFPA's continuing support for micro-enterprise projects, which sought to link family planning activities with efforts to enhance women's ability to earn income. One delegation noted, however, that the Fund should avoid entering areas where other organizations had a comparative advantage over UNFPA. Another asked how such projects would be integrated with information, education and communications activities.

79. Delegations generally valued UNFPA's support of, and participation in, efforts to establish and further develop a United Nations joint and co-sponsored programme on HIV/AIDS. Several stressed the importance of allocating more resources to HIV/AIDS prevention activities and of exchanging knowledge and information with one another. One delegation considered such a joint programme an extremely valuable tool in empowering Governments to address the multisectoral impact of HIV/AIDS and in improving donor coordination in partnership with those national efforts. The delegation therefore recommended that the Executive Board encourage UNFPA to continue its excellent record of cooperation in this area within the context of Board decision 94/6, which had been adopted at the Board's second regular session in May.

80. A number of delegations commented on the need for a strategic focus for UNFPA's activities and on its future directions, noting the importance of the forthcoming Cairo Conference as a benchmark that would give new impetus to global efforts to integrate population concerns into the development process. Several noted that it might be necessary to further focus UNFPA assistance on a selected number of countries and on specific sectors in order to avoid the dilution of efforts and the resulting reduction in the quality and impact of activities. Many stressed the importance of working with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), in particular with national NGOs.

81. One delegation observed that the current method of reporting on completed activities such as workshops and training was of limited use in assessing programme implementation. It therefore recommended identifying objectives at the beginning of the year and assessing them at the end of the year. Another delegation, while supporting the priority country system, wondered why the priority countries in the Arab States region had not received a larger share of resources. It suggested that UNFPA should develop methods to concentrate resources on those countries most in need. A third delegation said that criteria should be developed to facilitate the orderly phasing out of support when the objectives of country programmes had been achieved.

82. Delegations fully endorsed UNFPA's efforts to empower women, stressing the need to pursue such activities in the context of national priorities and the cultural values and traditions of individual countries. Many remarked that it would be important for UNFPA to define its particular niche in this area. Several emphasized the importance of education as a key to the success of family planning programmes in developing countries, especially that of young girls and women.

83. Numerous delegations addressed the Fund's financial situation as well as its management of resources. Many noted with concern the 7.8 per cent drop in UNFPA's income from 1992 to 1993 and called upon the international donor community to increase its support for the Fund. A number of delegations also expressed concern over UNFPA's underexpenditure of resources during the year as well as over the increase in the percentage of the Fund's administrative and programme support services (APSS) budget in relation to income. Several delegates raised questions about how this ratio was calculated.

84. A number of delegations noted UNFPA's efforts to implement General Assembly resolution 47/199, in particular as regards such aspects as the harmonization of programming cycles, the programme approach, decentralization and national execution, and national capacity-building. With particular reference to decentralization and the efforts to extend total programme approval authority to 12 countries on a trial basis, one delegation expressed the hope that such a procedure would accelerate programme implementation. Two delegations, however, noting that the reporting on the status of implementation of resolution 47/199 was headquarters-centred, recommended that, in future, such reporting be broadened to include the field perspective.

85. The Executive Director thanked delegations for their generally positive comments on the annual report and sought the Board's guidance on how to improve it. In response to delegates' concerns about cost-recovery schemes and private-sector participation in programmes, she acknowledged that initial efforts had not been fully encouraging. None the less, UNFPA had undertaken a joint cost-recovery exercise with the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and had contacted some national business councils with a view to setting up programmes to provide services in the industrial sector in developing countries. She assured delegations that although the task ahead was a difficult one UNFPA was committed to doing more work in this area.

86. The Executive Director welcomed the Executive Board's strong support for the Fund's more comprehensive approach to reproductive health care. She explained that the new approach had emanated from the experience of past years and that, while criteria were being developed to help measure the quality and effectiveness of services, the approach was still in the developmental stage. The Executive Director said that UNFPA recognized the need to sharpen the focus of its activities, noting in this context that the concentration of the Fund's resources was part of the ongoing dialogue. She agreed that the Fund's financial assistance should be concentrated in those countries most in need, and she sought the Board's guidance in this area.

87. Concerning the question of setting Fund-wide objectives at the beginning of the year, the Executive Director indicated that the suggestion merited some consideration. She pointed out, however, that this would be a rather difficult task. There was also a need to discuss what types of criteria should be used. Commenting on the question of the allocation of resources to the Arab States region in the context of the priority-country system, the Executive Director pointed out that the system had been established as a way of concentrating UNFPA resources on a global rather than a regional basis. She expressed hope that in future discussions it would be possible to sharpen further the Fund's priority country system.

88. With regard to the need to phase out financial assistance when country programme objectives had been achieved, the Executive Director pointed out that a few countries had already reached this stage. She stressed in this regard, however, that such countries would continue to receive technical assistance,

should they request it. She further noted that most of these countries were currently involved in South-South cooperation activities. The Executive Director expressed total agreement with the need to work with NGOs and noted that UNFPA continued to work with a wide variety of NGOs, both at the national and international level.

89. The Executive Director identified three main reasons for the Fund's underexpenditure during the year: the uncertainty of UNFPA's funding situation, in particular in view of the fluid nature of voluntary contributions and information from some donors that they might be forced by economic uncertainties to reduce funding levels; the suspension of UNFPA activities in a number of countries owing to civil unrest; and the realization of an $8 million saving in the APSS budget. She stressed that the uncertainty over funding made it extremely difficult to ensure a steady utilization of resources throughout the year. As for the increase in the percentage of the APSS budget relative to income, the Executive Director noted that the administrative costs had been determined in the biennial budget and thus were essentially fixed costs that had been calculated relative to income assumptions for the period of the budget.

90. The Executive Board took note of the annual report (DP/1994/44) of the Executive Director as well as of the comments made at the session.

91. Under this agenda item, the Executive Board adopted the following three decisions:

94/21. Commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the operations of the United Nations Population Fund

The Executive Board

1. Recommends to the General Assembly that it allocate a plenary meeting during its forty-ninth session (1994) to the commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the operations of the United Nations Population Fund;

2. Requests the Executive Director to make all necessary preparations for this commemoration.

16 June 1994

94/22. United Nations joint and co-sponsored programme on HIV/AIDS

The Executive Board

1. Supports participation of the United Nations Population Fund in the new United Nations joint and co-sponsored programme on HIV/AIDS in a manner as set forth in paragraphs 1 and 3 of its decision 94/6 of 10 May 1994;

2. Requests the Executive Director to transmit the present decision to the other co-sponsoring organizations as well as to the Economic and Social Council.

16 June 1994

94/23. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199

The Executive Board

Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund to incorporate feedback from their field offices, including on problems encountered, in their reports on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199.

16 June 1994

B. Update on the review and assessment exercise

92. The Executive Director introduced the report on this item (DP/1994/48) as part of the report of the Executive Director for 1993 (DP/1994/44). She stated that the report had been prepared in response to Governing Council decision 93/27 A. She informed the Executive Board that the report was based on the review of the last 25 years of experience of the Fund. UNFPA planned to further revise the report taking into account the views of the Board as well as the decisions and agreements emanating from the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and to present it to the Board in 1995.

93. Several delegations commented on the report. There was broad support on the main contents of the report. Several delegations appreciated the report as brief, objective, self-critical, and informative. The seven main issues highlighted by the report received full endorsement from many delegations. Some delegations, however, made several suggestions and sought clarifications on the future directions of the Fund with regard to the priority issues and aspects of the population and development programme UNFPA intended to support in the future. The Board noted the improvements that had taken place in the demographic situation in many developing countries during the period 1969-1994 and appreciated UNFPA's contribution in this regard. Some delegations emphasized the need to prioritize the substantive areas of support for UNFPA assistance taking into account countries' own needs and the comparative advantage of UNFPA.

94. Several delegations emphasized the need to give special attention to broad population policy issues, such as high and increasing levels of rural-to-urban migration, the special needs of adolescents and ageing populations, and size of the population, when formulating criteria for UNFPA assistance to countries. There was also broad support for the UNFPA programming process - the Programme Review and Strategy Development (PRSD) exercise; the Fund's technical support services (TSS) arrangements, including the establishment of the Country Support Teams (CSTs); and decentralization to the field offices - all of which had contributed to effective programme planning and implementation.

95. Responding to questions and comments from the delegations, the Executive Director welcomed the positive comments on the report and appreciated the valuable suggestions made by the delegations. She reiterated the need for further review and discussion on the future directions of the Fund taking into account the recommendations of the Draft Programme of Action of the ICPD 1994 and decisions and agreements reached at Cairo. She particularly pointed out the need to address the issue of the sustainability of programmes in countries that had already achieved considerable successes in addressing the population and reproductive health needs of their countries. She further suggested that in such countries national financial resources had to be mobilized on a sustained

basis with the international community providing only technical support. She agreed with delegations that criteria for UNFPA support to population programmes had to be revised in order to concentrate financial and technical support in those countries that needed such resources the most.

96. The Executive Director informed the Board that the seven issues identified in the report were neither exhaustive nor presented in any order of priority. There were other issues, such as support to women's reproductive health needs during emergencies, among others, that needed to be included in this list. She proposed that the revised report reflecting this discussion and the decisions and agreements reached at the Cairo Conference be presented to the Executive Board at its 1995 annual session.

97. The Executive Board took note of the report (DP/1994/48) of the Executive Director as well as comments made at the session.

C. Periodic report on evaluation

98. The Deputy Executive Director (Programme) introduced the Executive Director's periodic report on evaluation (document DP/1994/46). He noted that the report summarized UNFPA efforts during the biennium 1992-1993 in relation to project evaluations, thematic evaluations, Programme Review and Strategy Development (PRSD) exercises and feedback as well as use of evaluation results. The Fund's future plans in the area of evaluation were also indicated. He drew attention to the annex to the report, which outlined the findings of a review of the PRSD experience.

99. Many delegations welcomed the candour and substantive content of the report. There was a consensus that UNFPA should continue to emphasize evaluation of its programmes in order to provide inputs to sound management decisions. One delegation pointed out the importance of analysing programme achievements and outcome in this regard. Delegations strongly supported initiatives taken to strengthen the feedback, dissemination and use of evaluation results. In this connection, some delegations recommended wider dissemination so that evaluation findings could be accessible to the entire population community.

100. While expressing their appreciation of the candid findings of the review of the PRSD experience, some delegations were concerned with the problems identified and urged follow-up action to address them. Specifically, evaluation of programme performance and capacities of executing/implementing agencies should guide programme and strategy development. Two delegations referred to the importance of identifying successful projects and programmes as opposed to less successful ones. One delegation referred to the importance of quantitative analysis of evaluation findings. The Administration agreed with this and indicated that it would undertake an evaluation of its executing agencies in 1996.

101. The Executive Board took note of the report (DP/1994/46) of the Executive Director as well as of the comments made at the session.

D. Work plan and financial implementation of programmes

102. The Deputy Executive Director (Policy and Administration) introduced the work plan for 1995-1998 and request for programme expenditure authority (document DP/1994/45) and the status of financial implementation of Governing Council-approved country programmes and projects (document DP/1994/49). He noted that while the income of UNFPA had been lower than that in 1992 he was confident that this decrease had been a one-time event. He mentioned in particular the fact that the United States Government had returned as a major donor of UNFPA and that the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) would likely have a positive impact on fund-raising - both of which justified the income assumptions used in the work plan. He noted that the work plan followed the traditional approach and did not foresee any major changes in the intended use of programme resources,,as compared with the pattern of the recent past. With respect to the status of financial implementation of country programmes and projects, he observed that, as shown in the report, UNFPA had allocated resources to country programmes largely as scheduled, with delays being caused mostly by political events in the respective recipient countries.

103. Delegations expressed broad support for both reports. However, they expressed concern about the large carry-forward of resources, which totalled some $47 million at the end of 1993. Those speaking on the subject noted the need for sound managerial action to improve project implementation. In this regard, the Administration gave explanations on two issues: (a) the efforts made by UNFPA to improve project implementation qualitatively and quantitatively, as well as to improve project monitoring - both of which would help avoid some of the delays experienced in the past; and (b) the difficulties of matching income with expenditures for any year, given the fact that the income was known only when the year had already ended and that the expenditures of any given year were dependent upon allocations made already prior to the year in which the funds were spent. This latter problem was exacerbated by the considerable uncertainty of income levels that had prevailed when the allocations for 1992 and 1993 had been made. Despite these explanations, delegations stressed the importance of the Administration's developing new management measures to bring the serious problems of large carry-forwards of resources and slow programme implementation under control.

104. Delegations also expressed concern on the income assumptions for the years 1995-1998, which were based upon annual increases of 6 per cent, which some felt was overly optimistic. On the other hand, one delegation stated that, in view of the impetus to fund-raising expected from the ICPD, this estimate should actually be higher. Several delegations commented on the intended use of programme resources, inter alia, by suggesting increased proportions to Africa or reduced proportions to intercountry activities.

105. Several delegations commented on the fact that - in spite of savings on the administrative and programme support services (APSS) budget of $17.5 million for the biennium 1992-1993 - the proportion of the APSS budget appeared too high, be it calculated as a percentage of income or as percentage of programme expenditures. Some felt that this was the result of income assumptions which in the past had been too high. The Administration replied in detail on the budgetary process, explaining why the APSS budget could not be expected to respond, to a significant extent, to fluctuations in income during the period of the biennial budget. Moreover, the Administration indicated that further budget reductions could possibly hinder programme implementation. At the same time, the Administration detailed the efforts that had been made to save $17.5 million

in the APSS budget in 1992 and 1993, out of the original total net appropriations of $104 million.

106. During the discussion, one delegation proposed that the Executive Director report on possible steps to be taken by UNFPA to reduce further the APSS budget.

107. The Executive Board adopted the following decision:

94/20. Work plan for 1995-1998 and request for programme expenditure authority

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the Executive Director's programme resource planning proposals as set out in paragraphs 7 to 15 of document DP/1994/45;

2. Approves the request for 1995 programme expenditure authority at a level equal to programmable resources for 1995, currently estimated at $224 million;

3. Takes note of the following estimates of new programmable resources from regular resources for the 1996-1998 period: $241.5 million for 1996; $255.0 million for 1997; and $270.5 million for 1998;

4. Also takes note of the following estimates of new programmable resources from multi-bilateral funding: $15 million per year for the years 1995-1998.

16 June 1994

E. Global Initiative on Contraceptive Requirements and Logistics Management Needs in Developing Countries in the 1990s

108. The Director of the Technical and Evaluation Division introduced the Executive Director's report on the Global Initiative on Contraceptive Requirements and Logistics Management Needs in Developing Countries in the 1990s (document DP/1994/47). He noted that the report was divided into two sections. The first section contained an update of the estimates of global contraceptive requirements, including condom requirements for HIV/AIDS prevention, for the period 1994 to 2005; the second section contained a progress report on the activities of the Global Initiative. He noted that the new estimates of contraceptive requirements were higher than previous estimates and drew attention to the fact that more detailed information on global requirements was available in the recently published UNFPA Technical Report No. 18. Finally, he briefly described the nine in-depth country studies that had already been completed, and the further three studies that were being planned.

109. Delegations welcomed the report and expressed their strong support and encouragement for the activities of the Global Initiative, endorsing its continuation in 1994 and 1995. A number of delegations expressed their desire to receive further information, in due course, on what concrete actions had been taken in countries in response to the recommendations of the in-depth country studies. There was also general support for the view that future estimates of contraceptive requirements should be based, to the extent possible, on unmet

needs methodologies rather than on the basis of demographic projections. A number of delegations noted the importance of widely disseminating, and translating, as appropriate, the reports of these studies.

110. In regard to global contraceptive requirements, a number of delegations were pleased to note that new figures included estimates for unmarried women, as well as estimates of condoms for HIV/AIDS prevention prepared by the World Health Organization Global Programme on AIDS (WHO/GPA). Some delegations also noted the need for UNFPA to continue to support the local production of contraceptives in countries where sufficient demand existed and where such production was feasible. A number of questions were also raised as to the sources of supply, and how such global figures were very much affected by the situation in two or three countries with very large populations. Finally, the need to pay greater attention to logistics management requirements at the country level was also noted.

111. In response to the suggestion that future estimates of contraceptive requirements should be based on unmet needs rather than on the basis of demographic projections, UNFPA agreed to report to the Board in 1995 on the appropriate methodology to be used for this purpose. The Fund also agreed to provide the Board with further information on what concrete actions had been taken in countries in response to the recommendations of the in-depth studies. UNFPA noted that sufficient financial support was available, through extrabudgetary resources from the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau and the World Bank, to continue the work of the Global Initiative until the end of 1995.

112. The Executive Board adopted the following decision:

94/19. Global Initiative on Contraceptive Requirements and Logistics Management Needs in Developing Countries in the 1990s

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the Global Initiative on Contraceptive Requirements and Logistics Management Needs in Developing Countries in the 1990s (document DP/1994/47);

2. Endorses the continuation of the work of the Global Initiative;

3. Authorizes the Executive Director to make appropriate arrangements, through the use of project funds, to continue the work of the Secretariat of the Global Initiative for a further two-year period;

4. Requests the Executive Director to submit to the Executive Board in 1995 a status report on the Global Initiative as well as proposals for continuing its work beyond 1995, if necessary.

16 June 1994

VII. UNFPA: COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS

A. Country programmes

1. Islamic Republic of Iran

113. One delegation, while supporting the proposed programme and commending UNFPA for its quality, sought clarification on a few issues. Specifically, the delegation referred to the proposed coordination between UNFPA on the one hand and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) on the other and inquired whether the substantive areas of these agencies in the Islamic Republic of Iran were population-related. The delegation also asked whether the training proposed in the area of maternal and child health and family planning (MCH/FP) had been assessed by the June 1993 Programme Review and Strategy Development (PRSD) mission. The delegation further inquired whether programme projects would be audited and by whom, and what additional measures were envisaged in order to ensure adequate financial management of and technical support for the proposed programme.

114. The Director, Asia and Pacific Division (APD), responded that UNICEF's and WHO's substantive areas in the Islamic Republic of Iran were indeed population-related, with UNICEF focusing on family planning and WHO on the training of health personnel in the Ministry of Health. The Director confirmed that the MCH/FP training had been assessed during the PRSD mission by the Country Support Team (CST) adviser based in Kathmandu. He also confirmed that the same audit procedures that applied in other countries would be applied in the Islamic Republic of Iran. No difficulty was foreseen in that regard. Likewise, no problem was anticipated in regard to the financial management of and technical support for the proposed programme. The Director noted, in this context, that the local UNFPA office in Teheran was staffed by a Country Director and two National Professional Officers. Additional backstopping would be provided by the CST team in Kathmandu, technical staff from Headquarters and by NGOs, as appropriate.

115. The Executive Board approved the country programme for the Islamic Republic of Iran (DP/FPA/CP/137).

2. Maldives

116. One delegation commented on the unique geographical situation of the Maldives, noting its similarity to the situation faced by other small island countries in regard to population environment and sustainable development. The delegation expressed concern that without an appropriate strategy to address these problems, the country would face severe problems. He therefore supported the proposed programme and urged its approval by the Executive Board. Another delegation, noting the difficult geographical characteristics of the Maldives, asked whether community-based distribution would be used as a strategy to make contraceptives available to hard-to-reach areas. She also inquired about the steps taken to strengthen the management capacity of the UNFPA local office. A third delegation asked for clarification on the starting date of the proposed programme, as it appeared that the programme had already started implementation as of January 1994.

117. The Director, APD, noted his appreciation for the support expressed by delegations for the proposed programme, noting UNFPA's commitment to continue

its cooperation with the Government of the Maldives. He further commented on the change in attitude in the country in favour of population programmes, alluding to the fact that only a few years ago, contraceptives were illegal; now they were strongly supported by the Government and by very active NGOs. The Director confirmed that community-based distribution would be used during programme implementation. Concerning the strengthening of the management capacity of the local office, the Director indicated that in addition to the support already provided by the UNFPA Representative in the Maldives and by the national professional staff (a former official of the Ministry of Health), UNFPA was considering fielding a MCH/FP adviser and a United Nations Volunteer specialist. With regard to the starting date of the proposed programme, the Director stated that it had in fact started as of January in accordance with established Governing Council practice.

118. The Executive Board approved the country programme for the Maldives (DP/FPA/CP/138).

3. Philippines

119. Numerous delegations expressed their support for the proposed programme. Several stressed the importance of coordination, in particular in view of the highly decentralized nature of the programme. Many welcomed the programme's emphasis on national capacity-building and its use of Local Government Units and NGOs to reach previously underserved areas through a combination of information, education and communications (IEC) activities and the expanded delivery of family planning services. One commended the programme's focus on women and adolescents. Another was pleased that UNFPA was able to provide assistance in accordance with government priorities. Several also noted some concerns. One asked how the programme would seek to strengthen the link between IEC activities and programme delivery. Another asked if the monitoring and evaluation of the programme would differ from standard UNFPA practice, as implied in the report. A third thought the proposed method mix would be extremely costly and difficult to manage logistically. This same delegation asked more generally what criteria UNFPA used to cost out its country programmes.

120. The Director, APD, thanked delegations for their strong support. He agreed that effective coordination was essential to the programme's success, and he noted that UNFPA had already been meeting regularly with other donors active in the country. He said he was confident that the Government would increasingly take over the responsibility for coordination as the Commission on Population gained in prominence. He said that the UNFPA Country Support Team in Bangkok would continue to provide the technical backstopping required to ensure an effective link between IEC activities and programme delivery. He further noted that the high degree of decentralization of activities to the local level necessitated the additional monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. In answer to the question on what criteria UNFPA used to cost out country programmes, the Deputy Executive Director (Programme) noted that this was done in accordance with the criteria established by the Governing Council in decision 81/7.

121. The Executive Board approved the country programme for the Philippines (DP/FPA/CP/139).

4. Chad

122. Three delegations commented on the proposed programme. One delegation asked for more information on the proposed support for the construction of health facilities. The delegation also asked how UNFPA would ensure the quality of IEC inputs and of service delivery and what plans were envisaged for auditing. The same delegation further inquired whether technical expertise would be adequate for evaluation, planning and the development of indicators. Another delegation, while confirming her Government's intention to coordinate its activities in Chad with those of UNFPA, pointed out that coordination with other donors had not been mentioned. A third delegation expressed the hope that lessons learned from the previous programme would be taken into account in the implementation of the proposed programme.

123. The Director, Africa Division, indicated that while the World Bank would provide the bulk of the assistance for construction of health facilities, UNFPA would provide modest assistance in this area, to be used in case of delays in Bank assistance. This was consistent with recent UNFPA policy in this respect. The Director further commented that the quality of IEC inputs as well as of service delivery would be ensured through both training and the conduct of socio-cultural research. With regard to programme audit, the Director stated that standard audit practices would be applied by both external and United Nations auditors.

124. The Executive Board approved the country programme for Chad (DP/FPA/CP/135).

5. Zambia

125. Several delegations commented on the proposed programme. One welcomed UNFPA's efforts to improve access to family planning and reproductive health services and appreciated the focus on women and young people. His delegation would have liked more information on plans and schedules for providing support to the additional 120 service facilities covered by the programme as well as on specific indicators for measuring programme performance. Such information might in future be usefully provided in an annex to the reports. Another delegation welcomed the new focus on integrating family planning services into primary health care facilities. A third delegation, noting that the programme had a number of projects with shared responsibilities among different donors, asked how UNFPA would determine what its specific responsibilities would be in such projects.

126. The Director, Africa Division, said that the objectives set by the Government would provide specific indicators by which the programme could be evaluated. These included, among others, increasing the contraceptive prevalence rate from 15 per cent to 25 per cent by the year 2000 and increasing the number of new acceptors of contraception. He noted that the projects with shared responsibilities would be monitored in accordance with standard UNFPA procedures, which included annual tripartite reviews as well as mid-term reviews. This would ensure a clear delineation of shared responsibilities among donors. He did acknowledge in this context, however, that the different procedures among donors did at times create problems and therefore required close scrutiny.

127. The Executive Board approved the country programme for Zambia (DP/FPA/CP/136).

6. Nicaragua

128. Several delegations expressed support for the proposed programme. One stressed the need to orient the programme to the schools in order to address the needs of young people 15 to 19 years of age, since fertility rates among this age group were high. Another asked how UNFPA intended to address difficult areas, such as decentralization in implementation, quality of technical assistance, and absorptive capacity of national institutions. The delegation further asked if individual projects had built-in indicators to be used for monitoring. The delegation questioned whether the lack of male sterilization in the estimated demand for family planning services meant that there would be no IEC efforts targeted at men. The delegation also wondered if IEC materials developed in other countries could be modified for use in Nicaragua instead of creating new ones. A third delegation asked if the special consideration for youth included provision of services to them. The delegation also asked the reason for the high percentage of female sterilization as a method of contraception.

129. The Director, Latin American and Caribbean Division, explained that UNFPA intended to address the difficult areas mentioned above by strengthening national capacity in the area of reproductive health and family planning mainly through the training of doctors and paramedics. She assured the Board that IEC materials already developed in other countries would be examined to see if they could be adapted for use in Nicaragua. She did note, however, that specially targeted materials would likely have to be developed in order to reach the poorest populations living in special social and cultural conditions. She also confirmed that IEC activities targeted at men would be conducted. Regarding the query on built-in indicators, she said that such indicators would be used for monitoring project activities. Efforts would also be made, however, to assess the true impact of the programme, which could not be measured by such indicators alone. In answer to the questions on reproductive/family planning services for youth, she responded that the targeted youth would be provided with such services. Concerning the high percentage of female sterilization, she indicated that it was due to the lack of access to information on and methods of family planning.

130. The Executive Board approved the proposed country programme for Nicaragua (DP/FPA/CP/140).

B. Interim reports

1. Equatorial Guinea

131. Several delegations commented on the interim report. One noted that family planning services had to be strengthened and their availability and use expanded. Another identified several follow-up actions that were essential to the success of the programme. These included, among others, providing the requisite technical cooperation, giving special relevance to MCH/FP and the promotion of women, and ensuring effective coordination among donors.

132. The Director thanked delegations for their comments and their support.

133. The Executive Board took note of the interim report on the implementation of the second UNFPA country programme for Equatorial Guinea (DP/1994/50).

2. Rwanda

134. The Director, Africa Division, noted that, owing to the recent events in Rwanda, UNFPA had suspended its programme there and evacuated its programme staff. He said that UNFPA would work closely with other United Nations agencies in providing emergency assistance to the Rwandan people. In the case of UNFPA, such assistance would be funded from the budget of the UNFPA country programme approved last year and be provided in the form of services, equipment and medical supplies in the area of reproductive health care, including maternal and child health/family planning.

135. Numerous delegations expressed their sincere concerns over the situation in Rwanda and strongly supported the Fund's commitment to provide such assistance.

136. The Executive Board then adopted the following decision:

94/25. Assistance to Rwanda

The Executive Board

1. Encourages UNFPA, given the current situation in Rwanda, to support, in appropriate ways and in collaboration with other relief agencies, emergency assistance to the people of Rwanda from the third population programme resources on an exceptional basis;

2. Requests the Executive Director of UNFPA to report to the Executive Board at its next annual session on measures taken to implement this decision.

16 June 1994

VIII. UNITED NATIONS TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

137. On 6 June 1994, the Executive Board postponed consideration of this item to its third regular session, tentatively scheduled for 6-10 October 1994.

IX. OFFICE FOR PROJECT SERVICES

138. The Administrator introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the Office for Project Services (OPS) (DP/1994/52). He explained that it contained a new proposal put forward since the second regular session of the Executive Board in May 1994. The proposal had been developed in response to concerns expressed by Member States, and he urged its acceptance by the Board. He also added that he had been requested to inform the Board of the Secretary-General's desire for the Management Coordination Committee to be chaired by the Administrator.

139. The views of delegations regarding the proposal varied. Some favoured its acceptance, while others expressed reservations, in particular citing concern that it did not reflect the agreements reached at the second regular session of the Executive Board and at informal consultations. Several delegations opposed the creation of a new United Nations agency, which would cause extra expense, and emphasized their support for a close association of OPS with UNDP. A continued linkage, however, should include provisions ensuring improved transparency, an element that some stated should be reflected in the decision of the Board. Differing views were expressed on the proposed arrangement for management oversight of OPS. Several delegations underlined their support for a structure headed by the Administrator. Others doubted that OPS needed any oversight body other than the UNDP Executive Board, and there was widespread support for OPS to continue to report to the Board. One delegation believed that the OPS Executive Director should report directly to the Board, rather than through the Management Coordination Committee (MCC); it was agreed that while reports would be submitted to the Board through the MCC, OPS would continue to be represented at Board meetings by its Executive Director. There was universal insistence that a decision must be taken during the current session of the Board, with several delegations emphasizing that delay was detrimental to the effectiveness of OPS service to developing countries.

140. The representative of the World Bank cited the important role OPS played in assisting World Bank borrowers, through management services agreements, to implement loan projects, and recorded its advocacy for the status of OPS as an autonomous profit-centre with strong linkages to UNDP.

141. In response, the Administrator underlined the flexibility shown by the Secretary-General on the issue of OPS and stated that he hoped that the Board could reach consensus at the current session. The Administrator noted, in response to questions, that the Secretary-General's proposal to maintain "the existing financial and personnel regime" with UNDP included the existing UNDP personnel reassignment process.

142. Following informal consultations, a draft decision was presented to the Board. One delegation requested clarification as to the definition of the term "implementation", as used in the text of the draft. In reply, the Vice-President explained that the word used in the context of the draft was of a broad nature, so as to distinguish between the role of UNDP in funding and coordination, on the one hand, and the role of OPS on the other.

143. Based on discussions of the draft, the Board adopted the following decision:

94/12. Office for Project Services

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the Secretary-General's intention to strengthen the coordinating and central funding roles of the United Nations Development Programme in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/199, and other relevant resolutions and to ensure that the Office for Project Services will undertake implementation rather than funding activities;

2. Recognizes the need for a self-financing Office for Project Services, which should become a separate and identifiable entity, without the establishment of a separate administrative apparatus;

3. Stresses the importance of OPS continuing to operate within the United Nations development system and not becoming a new agency;

4. Underlines the need to enhance further the role of the Executive Board in providing overall policy guidance for and supervision of OPS;

5. Recommends to the General Assembly that, instead of the merger proposed in Governing Council decision 93/42 of 18 June 1993, the Office for Project Services should become a separate and identifiable entity in a form that does not create a new agency and in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and other operational entities, whose administrative support, including that relating to financial and personnel matters, will continue to be provided by UNDP and that the Office should continue to work through the UNDP field network;

6. Agrees in principle to the Secretary-General's proposal to establish, within existing resources, a Management Coordinating Committee for the Office for Project Services in order to address certain perceived conflicts of interest between the coordinating and implementing roles of the United Nations Development Programme, subject to consideration of a report to be prepared by the Administrator in consultation with the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management and the Under-Secretary-General for Development Support and Management Services, on its precise role and functions at its third regular session in 1994;

7. Endorses the Secretary-General's recommendation that the Committee would consist of:

Chairman: The Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

Members: The Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management

The Under-Secretary-General for Development Support and Management Services

Secretary: The Executive Director of the Office for Project Services;

8. Decides that, subject to paragraph 6 of the present decision, the Executive Director will report to the Secretary-General and the Executive Board through the Management Coordinating Committee;

9. Agrees also in principle to the Secretary-General's proposal to establish, within existing resources, an Office for Project Services Users

Advisory Group, under the chairmanship of the Under-Secretary-General for Development Support and Management Services, with the responsibility of ensuring that the Office for Project Services is fully aware of the concerns of United Nations organizations and others who utilize its services and with the responsibility of making appropriate recommendations;

10. Requests the Executive Director of the Office for Project Services, in collaboration with the Administrator and subject to the approval of the recommendation in paragraph 5 above by the General Assembly, to report to the Executive Board no later than at its third regular session through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on ways of establishing the Office for Project Services as a separate and identifiable entity and of increasing the transparency of its operations, including proposals concerning:

(a) The precise role and composition of the Office for Project Services Users Advisory Group;

(b) The establishment of a separate contracts committee;

(c) Any necessary revision of the financial and procurement rules of the United Nations Development Programme as they apply to the Office for Project Services in order to ensure the efficiency of the office and to enable it to work in a businesslike manner;

(d) More transparent accounting procedures for the Office for Project Services, including improved auditing;

(e) The responsibility of the Office for Project Services in personnel matters;

(f) Ways of ensuring that the Office for Project Services perform implementation functions and that it operate on a self-financing basis.

9 June 1994

X. OTHER MATTERS

144. One representative made a brief statement on the role of UNDP in the international fight against narcotic drug production and trafficking. She urged UNDP to submit its agency implementing plan for the new United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control in time for the 1994 Economic and Social Council since the topic of its coordination segment would be United Nations system drug-control activities. Emphasis on clear and sustained direction to country offices in drug-affected areas on ways to integrate drug control and prevention in development programmes should be included.

145. One representative made a statement regarding General Assembly resolution 48/210, in which the Assembly invited competent organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to consider how their assistance programmes and facilities might be helpful to States affected by the implementation of the Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). The representative noted the deep concern of his delegation that the resolution be implemented by UNDP. His delegation reserved the right to raise the issue at the third regular session of the Board in October 1994.

XI. OVERVIEW OF DECISIONS ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL SESSION

94/18. Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its annual session 1994

A

The Executive Board

Recalls that during the United Nations Development Programme segment of the annual session 1994 it:

ITEM 1: ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Approved the agenda and the work plan for its annual session 1994 with the decisions regarding items 5 and 8 indicated below under these items (DP/1993/L.3);

Approved the report of the second regular session 1994 with the comments received (DP/1994/9);

ITEM 2: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR AND RELATED MATTERS

Took note of the following reports:

Annual report of the Administrator for 1993 (DP/1994/10 and Add.1-5 and DP/1994/10/Add.2/Corr.2);

UNDP follow-up to General Assembly resolution 47/199 (DP/1994/22);

Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (DP/1994/11);

Adopted decision 94/15 of 10 June 1994 on the 1994 Human Development Report;

Adopted decision 94/13 of 9 June 1994 on the role of the United Nations Development Programme in the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s;

ITEM 3: FUTURE OF UNDP

Adopted decision 94/14 of 10 June 1994 on the future of the United Nations Development Programme;

ITEM 4: MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMMING CYCLES

Adopted decision 94/16 of 10 June 1994 on the mid-term review of the fifth programming cycle;

Adopted decision 94/17 of 10 June 1994 on issues relating to the sixth programming cycle;

Adopted decision 94/11 of 8 June 1994 entitled "Matters relating to the programming cycles: South Africa", in which the Republic of South Africa was welcomed as a recipient country;

ITEM 5: LOCATION OF UNDP/UNFPA HEADQUARTERS

Decided not to consider this agenda item;

ITEM 8: UNITED NATIONS TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

Decided to postpone consideration of United Nations technical cooperation activities to the third regular session 1994;

ITEM 9: OFFICE FOR PROJECT SERVICES

Adopted decision 94/12 of 9 June 1994 on the Office for Project Services.

10 June 1994

B

The Executive Board

Recalls that during the UNFPA segment of the annual session 1994 it:

ITEM 1: ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Agreed on the work plan for the UNFPA segment with the changes suggested, including the decision of the Executive Board taken on 9 June 1994 to postpone its consideration of the field visit reports to the third regular session; it was also agreed that future field visit reports should be considered only at regular sessions;

Approved the report of the annual session 1994 with the comments received (future DP/1994/55);

Adopted decision 94/24 of 16 June 1994 on documentation.

Agreed to decide dates for future sessions at the third regular session 1994 based on the following reservations made:

Regular session: 10-13 January 1995

Regular session: 24-26 April 1995

Annual session: 5-16 June 1995

Regular session: 25-29 September 1995

ITEM 6: UNFPA: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PROGRAMME-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

Took note of the following reports:

Annual report of the Executive Director for 1993 (DP/1994/44)

Update on the UNFPA Review and Assessment Exercise (DP/1994/48)

Periodic report on evaluation (DP/1994/46)

Status of financial implementation of Governing Council-approved country programmes and projects (DP/1994/49)

Adopted decision 94/19 of 16 June 1994 on the Global Initiative on Contraceptive Requirements and Logistics Management Needs in Developing Countries in the 1990s;

Adopted decision 94/20 of 16 June 1994 on the work plan for 1995-1998 and request for programme expenditure authority;

Adopted decision 94/21 of 16 June 1994 on the Commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the operations of the United Nations Population Fund;

Adopted decision 94/22 of 16 June 1994 on the United Nations joint and co-sponsored programme on HIV/AIDS;

Adopted decision 94/23 of 16 June 1994 on implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199;

ITEM 7: UNFPA: COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS

Country programmes:

Approved the following country programmes as presented, subject to the availability of resources, and authorized the Executive Director to make the necessary arrangements for their management, funding and execution:

Assistance to the Government of Chad (DP/FPA/CP/135)

Assistance to the Government of Zambia (DP/FPA/CP/136)

Assistance to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran (DP/FPA/CP/137)

Assistance to the Government of Maldives (DP/FPA/CP/138)

Assistance to the Government of Nicaragua (DP/FPA/CP/140)

Assistance to the Government of the Philippines (DP/FPA/CP/139)

Interim reports:

Took note of the interim report on the implementation of the second UNFPA country programme for Equatorial Guinea (DP/1994/50);

Adopted decision 94/25 of 16 June 1994 on assistance to Rwanda.

16 June 1994

Part four

THIRD REGULAR SESSION

Held at United Nations Headquarters from 6 to 10 October 1994

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

1. The Administrator introduced the new Associate Administrator, Mr. Rafeeuddin Ahmed, immediately following the opening of the session on 6 October 1994. A number of representatives extended a warm welcome to him.

2. The Executive Board adopted the following agenda for its third regular session 1994, as contained in document DP/1994/L.5:

Item 1: Organizational matters

Item 2: Agency support costs

Item 3: Country programmes and related matters

Item 4: UNDP financial, budgetary and administrative matters

Item 5: UNFPA financial, budgetary and administrative matters

Item 6: Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development

Item 7: Matters relating to the programming cycles

Item 8: Office for Project Services

Item 9: United Nations technical cooperation activities

Item 10: Other matters (including the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office)

3. The Executive Board decided to consider the report on the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office although it had not been submitted to the Office of Conference and Support Services seven weeks before the start of the session, as prescribed in decision 94/24 of 16 June 1994.

4. The Executive Board decided to postpone consideration of UNFPA audit reports (DP/1994/54) to its first regular session 1995 and to consider the report on United Nations regular and extrabudgetary technical cooperation expenditures (DP/1994/40 and Add.1-2) at its third regular session 1995 since the item had been biennialized in accordance with paragraph 5 (n) of decision 92/2 of 14 February 1992.

5. The Executive Board agreed to the work plan contained in document DP/1994/L.5 with a few amendments introduced orally.

6. The Executive Board agreed to the following schedule of future sessions in New York in 1995, subject to the approval of the Committee on Conferences:

First regular session: Tuesday, 10 January to Friday, 13 January

Second regular session: (Following the third regular session, delegations requested that the dates agreed on for the second regular session (24-27 April 1995) be changed since they overlapped with a session of the Commission for Sustainable Development. The second regular session was therefore tentatively rescheduled to: Tuesday, 4 April to Friday, 7 April.)

Annual session: Monday, 5 June to Friday, 16 June

Third regular session: Monday, 28 August to Friday, 1 September

7. The Executive Board also agreed to the subjects to be discussed at its 1995 sessions as listed in the annex.

II. AGENCY SUPPORT COSTS

8. The Director of the Division for Resource Planning and Coordination introduced the report on agency support costs (DP/1994/23), which outlined the current and projected status of implementation of the arrangements for the fifth cycle. The introduction also highlighted two support cost proposals previously discussed at the annual session 1994, and deferred to the current session for decision. The first proposal related to flexibility in the assignment of underutilized TSS-2 resources to TSS-1; and the second to the establishment of a modest technical support facility for the smaller agencies through the redeployment of a portion of their underutilized earmarkings.

9. The report of the external independent evaluators on the arrangements was also presented (DP/1994/23, Add.1), which the Governing Council had requested under decision 91/32. While the evaluators indicated that there had been insufficient experience to draw firm conclusions about the arrangements, the report contained several noteworthy observations and recommendations on operational and programmatic matters. It was suggested that they could be addressed through existing consultative mechanisms with the agencies and in the task forces set up by UNDP with individual agencies on substantive programmatic collaboration.

10. Most delegations concurred that there had been too little experience with the arrangements thus far but found the interim evaluation useful. Several speakers suggested that a further evaluation might be required in two to three years. Many delegations commented favourably on the effective use made of TSS-1 and the increasing upstream focus of the agencies. However, they stressed the continued importance of TSS-2 services, particularly in support of the Administrator's accountability for nationally executed projects. Several speakers would have preferred a more in-depth analysis by the evaluation team of certain aspects of the facilities, for example difficulties in implementing TSS-2 and operational barriers to national execution and national implementation.

11. Many delegations supported the proposal for flexibility in the assignment of underutilized TSS-2 resources to TSS-1 but cautioned that it should not be taken as a precedent and should apply only to the remainder of the fifth cycle. Recognizing that that was not a lasting solution, a number of speakers called for intensified efforts to increase the use of TSS-2. There was general support for one delegation's comment that recipient governments should be more closely involved in the selection and formulation of TSS-1 activities.

12. One delegation specifically queried the resource transfer from TSS-2 to TSS-1 on his understanding that the current amount of TSS-2 ($56 million), although reduced to 70 per cent of the originally established level, was not in line with the estimated volume of activities under the new arrangements. Following bilateral consultations, the secretariat clarified that TSS-2 resources also ensured accountability for national execution and implementation under the old arrangements and thus could not be related only to approvals under the new arrangements. The secretariat also emphasized that the proposed transfer of TSS-2 resources to the TSS-1 facility would be handled flexibly in order to ensure the availability of sufficient TSS-2 resources at all times. Finally, it was pointed out that the provision of additional TSS-1 resources at that time was considered particularly useful in helping to bridge the hiatus to the next programming period.

13. At the request of a number of delegations, the secretariat provided a brief overview of the current sectoral support arrangements for the smaller agencies. Many delegations supported the creation of a technical support facility for the smaller agencies but agreed with the suggestion, supported in the evaluation report, that it would be simpler to redeploy the funds to enhance the existing sectoral support facility. The secretariat also

clarified for one delegation the application of the indicative planning figure (IPF) sub-line for nationally implemented projects in lieu of add-on provisions under the old arrangements.

14. The representative from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), speaking on behalf of the large agencies, welcomed the evaluation report and its focus on the broader objectives intended through the establishment of the new arrangements. He indicated that the large agencies had already made efforts to refocus and restructure according to their changing roles within the tripartite partnership. They supported the proposal on TSS-1, pointing out that a larger TSS-1 role for the agencies, especially during preparations for the next programming period, should in turn generate higher utilization of TSS-2 services.

15. The representative from the International Maritime Organization (IMO), speaking on behalf of the smaller agencies, also welcomed the evaluation report and supported the proposals set out in paragraph 89 thereof. He reported that the small agencies had also undertaken a great deal of internal reorganization in an effort to enhance the support they could provide, especially in the regional and subregional contexts.

16. The Executive Board adopted the following decision:

94/26. Agency support costs

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator on agency support costs (DP/1994/23) and of the report of the independent evaluation of the support cost arrangements (DP/1994/23/Add.1);

2. Takes note of the status of the financial provisions;

3. Authorizes the Administrator to redeploy resources within the revised support cost earmarkings as indicated below, on the understanding that such transfers will apply only to the fifth programming cycle and that the governments concerned will be fully consulted on the use of these resources:

(a) Transfer of unutilized resources from TSS-2 to TSS-1, within the overall reduced earmarking of $120 million;

(b) Enhancement of the sectoral support facility by an amount of $5 million to finance technical support services to be provided by the smaller technical agencies through redeployment of unutilized resources remaining in line 3, annex I, of decision 91/32.

7 October 1994

III. COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS

A. First country programme for Cambodia

Programme period: October 1994 - December 1996;
IPF: $89,158,000

17. The first country programme for Cambodia (DP/CP/KHM/1) was introduced by the Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, and by the Minister of Rehabilitation and Development of Cambodia, H.E. Mr. Keat Chhon.

18. Several delegations indicated their strong support for the programme and endorsed its strategies and objectives. It was noted that the programme would

provide appropriate bridging between the UNDP reconstruction phase and the development continuum in Cambodia. The areas identified in the country programme were of the highest priority - to the people and to the Government - in poverty alleviation, particularly in the rural areas, and capacity-building.

19. Some delegations observed that the programme should concentrate on fewer sectors. Moreover, the programme objectives should be structured in such a way as to make the maximum use of core funding resources and be less dependent on large amounts of cost-sharing contributions. One delegation noted that insufficient attention had been paid to gender-in-development issues in the country programme document. Other delegations mentioned the need to monitor closely the unstable security situation.

20. In response, UNDP assured the Executive Board that the matters raised by delegations would be taken into account in the implementation of the programme.

21. The Minister of Rehabilitation and Development of Cambodia expressed the appreciation of his Government for the remarks made by delegations.

22. The Executive Board approved the first country programme for Cambodia as presented.

B. Case-by-case approval of programmes and projects for Aruba, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Netherlands Antilles, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago (DP/1994/32)

23. In introducing document DP/1994/32, the Director of the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean noted that the fourth cycle country programmes for Aruba, Barbados, the British Virgin Islands, Netherlands Antilles, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago had been extended to the end of December 1993, and that, with the exception of Trinidad and Tobago, the countries were all net contributor countries in the fifth cycle. The reasons for the extensions were two-fold: (a) the attainment of net contributor country status coincided with the severely restrictive fiscal conditions prevailing in all the countries as a result of structural adjustment and reform programmes; (b) a much heavier burden was now placed on the strategic use of UNDP resources in view of the substantial declines in IPFs arising from the net contributor country status.

24. The Director informed the Executive Board that the new country programmes would be presented to the Executive Board in 1995.

25. The Executive Board granted authorization to the Administrator to provide assistance on a case-by-case basis, pending submission of country programmes, to Aruba, Barbados, the British Virgin Islands, Netherlands Antilles, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

C. Field visits

Gaza and the West Bank, and Jordan

26. Ambassador Eduard Kudryavtsev (Russian Federation), the team leader, introduced the report of the field visit to Gaza and the West Bank, and Jordan (DP/1994/CRP.3). He expressed the team's appreciation to the UNDP and UNFPA staff at headquarters and in the field who had assisted with the organizational arrangements for the field visits. He noted that although the report had been prepared at the end of the field visit, in May, five months had passed before the Board was able to consider it. Such delays should be avoided in the future to ensure that the findings remained current.

27. He drew attention to the fact that since there had been no Palestinian authority until recently in the area, the team had experienced difficulty in determining whether UNDP and UNFPA activities responded to national priorities. Moreover, in the absence of representatives of specialized agencies in the area, the Office of the Special Representative of UNDP had acted almost alone, drawing on the collaboration of some local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in formulating the programmes and in identifying projects. In doing so, the Office had demonstrated a high level of professionalism, dedication and competence, and had endeavoured to obtain appropriate technical advice. He went on to say that with the appointment of the Palestinian Authority, and the establishment of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR), more balanced and focused programming should be expected in the foreseeable future.

28. Turning to the Jordan part of the report, Ambassador Kudryavtsev spoke of the successful use of the programme approach, which focused on four areas in the current country programme: human resource development; macro-economic management; natural resource management; and support to productive sectors.

29. He pointed out that optimum use of local expertise and other resources was being made in implementing both UNDP-and UNFPA-supported projects in the country. The team had noted the catalytic role that both UNDP and UNFPA were playing in attracting bilateral and other multilateral assistance to the country.

Philippines and Viet Nam

30. In introducing the report on the field visits to the Philippines and Viet Nam, the rapporteur of the team, Mr. Olivier Chave (Switzerland), thanked the UNDP and UNFPA officials involved in the arrangements for their assistance, both at headquarters and in the countries. He said that the visits had provided overall views and general conceptions but had not allowed in-depth analyses. As directed by the terms of reference, the team had concentrated on a number of selected issues and had not been able to do full justice to the efforts of UNDP and UNFPA in the countries.

31. He said that the Philippines and Viet Nam were at very different stages of development and that the team had been impressed with what they had seen in both countries. UNDP and UNFPA were doing their best to build upon and maximize their comparative advantages.

32. The role of UNDP in overall expertise and understanding of the countries was commendable.

33. In the Philippines, aid coordination was very important, and the central role played by the National Economic and Development Agency (NEDA) was very well backstopped by UNDP. Aid coordination, however, remained a long-haul proposition. The team was sensitive to understaffing in the UNDP and UNFPA offices, especially at a time when programme implementation and capacity and institution-building needed strengthening. The team was also impressed by the level of national execution and decentralization.

34. There was a large reservoir of educated personnel and numerous NGOs in the Philippines. Especially worthy of note was the search for innovative methods and mechanisms, including working through local government units and NGOs. He made special mention of the UNFPA success in building on the population policy of the new Government.

35. Concerning Viet Nam, he said UNDP was concentrating activities on three areas: institutional reform, environment and natural resources and social adjustment. UNDP was playing a key role in aid coordination through the State Planning Committee, whose capacity the Programme aimed to strengthen. A country strategy note for Viet Nam was being prepared. The relatively low

level of national execution was due to low national capacity. He said UNFPA was very active in Viet Nam, which had the third largest UNFPA programme. The team was impressed by the central leadership role of UNFPA in population activities in Viet Nam as well as by the Fund's capacity to help the country to mobilize additional financial resources.

Kenya and Zimbabwe

36. The report on the field visit to Kenya and Zimbabwe (DP/1994/CRP.9) was introduced by Ambassador Slavi Zh. Pashovski, (Bulgaria), who served as team leader. He observed that in both countries, which were undertaking programmes of structural adjustment, government officials had indicated that the scarcity of resources had posed greater problems than any conditionalities attached to external assistance. He noted especially the relevance and effectiveness of UNDP support to the private sector, which, although small in scale, was nevertheless proving to be instrumental in the transformation process. He referred to the successful role of UNDP in coordinating United Nations system support to the development efforts in both Kenya and Zimbabwe.

37. He also drew attention to the growing regional dimension in the workings of the UNDP Office in Nairobi, which appeared to be straining the capacity of its staff. A similar situation was also beginning to develop in the UNDP Office in Harare.

38. One of the comments stemming from the discussion of the report concerned the somewhat limited use of the TSS facilities in Zimbabwe, which, the Secretariat explained, would be improved through such measures as speedier disposal of requests currently awaiting headquarters clearance.

General issues relating to the field visits.

39. In the discussion, delegations raised some organizational issues, namely, the raison d'être of the field visits; the structure and composition of the teams; limitations on the number of times an individual could participate in the field visits; and the need for strengthening the donor participation in the visits and the streamlining of some preparatory arrangements, including the provision of detailed pre-mission information on local realities. It was agreed that those issues would be taken up in the informal consultations with the view to further refining the terms of reference for future field visits.

40. The Director of the Bureau for Resources and External Affairs (BREA) recalled that the terms of reference, number of participants and reporting requirements of the field visits were entirely in the hands of the Executive Board. He added that he would favour a revision of the terms of reference. Speaking about plans for future field visits, he proposed that six visits take place in 1995 and that each visit be limited to one country for a duration of 10 days with the exception of the first visit of 1995 which could still proceed under the present arrangements of 2 countries for 2 weeks with a team of up to ten members. He further suggested that the team be composed of no more than five to six members - one or two from developed countries and four from developing countries. In accordance with the current practice, the countries to be visited, and the timing of the visits, would be proposed to the Bureau of the Executive Board for approval.

Decision of the Executive Board

41. The Executive Board took note of the three reports of field visits to: Gaza and the West Bank, and Jordan; Philippines and Viet Nam; and Kenya and Zimbabwe and of the comments made thereon. The Board decided to discuss further the terms of reference of the field visits in informal consultations.

IV. UNDP FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

A. Annual review of the financial situation, 1993 (DP/1994/34 and Corr. 1 and Add.1-4)

42. The Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Finance and Administration (BFA), introduced the item. He emphasized that UNDP had been able to maintain total programme expenditures at the same level as 1992 despite a reduced income of voluntary contributions. That had been possible thanks to the ongoing growth in cost-sharing. He referred to an expenditure plan for the Reserve for Field Accommodation that was being prepared for submission to the Executive Board in 1995. He also emphasized the commitment of UNDP to close down inactive trust funds. The Assistant Administrator also introduced the proposed changes to the UNDP Financial Regulations and Rules.

43. In response to concerns expressed by some delegations with regard to the use of the operational reserve to cover uneven cash flows, the Assistant Administrator explained that the particular situation in question had resulted from a combination of factors, in particular from a delay in receipt of contributions while the expenditure pattern remained steady. However, he also added that the use of the operational reserve had occurred for a short-term period only and had not caused any significant loss of income derived from interest earned on the reserve.

44. Several delegations expressed their concern regarding the overcommitments and overexpenditures above the authorized levels in the Reserve for Field Accommodation. The Assistant Administrator indicated that the Reserve was initially created for housing purposes. However, since 1989, it had increasingly been used to finance construction of common premises for the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP) and other partners. Those overexpenditures had resulted mainly from delays in receiving funds from partner agencies while construction was going on, unforseen cost overruns, and lower-than-anticipated rental income. The Assistant Administrator indicated that UNDP had been in close consultation with the Board of Auditors in devising corrective action. In response to the Board's recommendations, he noted UNDP was preparing a three-to-five year expenditure plan, including, inter alia, the disposal of housing assets.

45. Concerns regarding trust funds were addressed by the commitment of UNDP to continue its efforts to close down inactive trust funds, in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) in its report (DP/1994/36). The Assistant Administrator indicated that the proposed revisions of the Financial Regulations would also help in reducing the number of trust funds, in particular by collaborating with NGOs on a cost-sharing basis.

46. A number of delegations commented on the proposed revisions to the UNDP Financial Regulations and Rules. The Assistant Administrator indicated that the revisions reflected the need to rationalize the handling of funds, the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, changes in nomenclature, past Governing Council and Executive Board decisions, and to accommodate the new status of the Office for Project Services (OPS) as a separate and identifiable entity. Some delegations had questions concerning the rationale for maintaining the reference to UNDP itself being an executing agency at the time when OPS was about to be given status as a separate entity. In addressing that point, the Assistant Administrator provided his assurances that there was absolutely no intention on the part of UNDP to create a new operational executing arm to replace OPS. Rather, it was proposed that the provision be maintained in order not to affect the Administrator's full responsibility and accountability to the Board for all aspects of the implementation of the UNDP programme. That would be in line with the Administrator's obligation to ensure maximum effectiveness of programme assistance by the appropriate use of suitable service obtained from governmental and non-governmental institutions

and firms. He further stated that UNDP would be pleased to report on expenditure related to execution on its own behalf in the framework of the financial reports.

47. One delegation said that more time was required to study carefully the documentation on the proposed amendments. Another delegation indicated that it could agree to the proposed amendments only upon receipt of the advice of its own Government's Board of Auditors, and therefore more time was needed.

48. The Executive Board adopted the following decision:

94/28. Annual review of the financial situation, 1993

The Executive Board

1. Takes note with concern of the decreased level of contributions to the United Nations Development Programme, which has led to a significant reduction in the level of indicative planning figures;

2. Invites Governments to consider increasing their voluntary contributions to the United Nations Development Programme on a more predictable, continuous and assured basis;

3. Requests Governments to pay their voluntary contributions to the United Nations Development Programme as early in the year as possible or in regular instalments over the year;

4. Notes with satisfaction the substantial increase in the use of national execution in the delivery of the Programme;

5. Notes with concern the overcommitment and overexpenditure in the Reserve for Field Accommodation and requests that a three-year plan on the utilization of the Reserve be presented to the Board at its first regular session 1995;

6. Approves the changes to the Financial Regulations set out in document DP/1994/34/Add.4, which will take effect 1 January 1995 unless any Member of the Executive Board lodges an objection in writing with the Administrator before that date;

7. Takes note of the changes to the Financial Rules set out in document DP/1994/34/Add.4;

8. Requests the United Nations Development Programme to intensify its efforts to close down inactive trust funds;

9. Also requests that it be kept informed in the relevant financial reports on an annual basis of the number and value of projects and programmes which the United Nations Development Programme executes on its own behalf and which the United Nations Office for Project Services executes on behalf of the members of the United Nations system.

10 October 1994

B. Revised budget estimates for the biennium 1994-1995 (DP/1994/35 and Corr.1)

49. In introducing the item, the Assistant Administrator and Director, BFA, stated that UNDP continued to keep strict control of its administrative budget, thereby keeping as many resources as possible for programme purposes. With respect to the revised budget estimates for the biennium 1994-1995, a

further reduction of 2.6 per cent had been achieved through a combination of currency release and inflation adjustment. The Assistant Administrator reported on the success of the regional service centre pilot scheme in Asia, the field presence in the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States and on the pilot of the new contractual instrument "Appointment for Activities of Limited Duration (ALD)".

50. Many delegations expressed their appreciation for the clear and comprehensive document. One delegation proposed that UNDP work with other United Nations programmes and funds to harmonize the presentation of budgets and accounts with a view to obtaining greater comparability and transparency. UNICEF decision 1994/R.3/6 of 5 October 1994 was recalled, suggesting that a similar decision be adopted for UNDP. Following the endorsement by many delegations of that proposal, the Assistant Administrator welcomed an initiative to harmonize budget and accounts presentation. He indicated that UNDP had already achieved a considerable level of transparency in its budget and accounts presentation, which had been recognized by several delegations in previous Governing Council sessions. He also noted that the practicalities of specific mandates, focus and operational approaches of each United Nations entity would need to be taken into consideration.

51. Referring to the reduction of IPFs by another 5 per cent, one delegation asked why the core administrative budget had not been similarly reduced. The Assistant Administrator pointed out that the tight resource situation that had led to the reduction in programme funds in the fifth cycle had been taken into account, resulting in the implementation of two successive budget strategies: a $14 million reduction in the 1992-1993 biennial budget; and a $41 million reduction in the 1994-1995 biennial budget. Furthermore, he drew attention to the fact that the revised estimates under review did include a further reduction of 2.6 per cent.

52. Some delegations, noting the savings as a result of the devaluation of the CFA franc, requested UNDP to consider increasing the IPFs of the respective countries. In his response, the Assistant Administrator stated that there was no direct link between the administrative expenditure in a country and the IPF. Such savings, however, benefited UNDP general resources directly and thus, indirectly, the resources available for programming. He further noted that IPFs were set in United States dollars and therefore were not affected by currency fluctuations. As a result, the devaluation directly benefited the countries concerned in that the dollar equivalent of programme/project expenditure made in local currency (CFA franc) would be less, thus releasing funds for additional programming.

53. With respect to the regional service centre pilot scheme, delegations commended UNDP on the success of the pilot scheme and endorsed the expansion of the concept to Africa. One delegation inquired about the possibility of expanding the functions of regional service centres beyond audit and account examination, such as training of national officials with regard to national execution. The Assistant Administrator indicated that other functions that might be carried out in a more cost-effective manner by the regional service centre were under consideration. In response to questions by some delegations on the comments of ACAFQ on the subject, he provided the clarifications requested.

54. Several delegations expressed appreciation for the fact that UNDP was establishing its field presence in South Africa, utilizing existing resources during the 1994-1995 biennium. One delegation noted that specific proposals with respect to the item would be provided in conjunction with the 1996-1997 biennial budget presentation.

55. Regarding the UNDP field presence in the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States, some delegations, while appreciating UNDP activities in the region, requested that the Administrator review the level of support at UNDP headquarters and the field with respect to those operations.

56. The Executive Board adopted the following decisions:

94/29. Revised budget estimates for the biennium 1994-95

The Executive Board

1. Approves, with respect to the revised budget estimates for the 1994-1995 biennium of the United Nations Development Programme and the funds administered by the United Nations Development Programme (DP/1994/35), a revised appropriation in the amount of $607,882,000 gross, to be allocated from the resources indicated in table B, to finance the revised 1994-1995 biennial budget and resolves that the income estimates in the amount of $36,700,000 shall be used to offset the gross appropriation, resulting in a net appropriation of $571,182,000;

2. Takes note of the Administrator's reports on (a) the regional service centre concept; (b) the United Nations Development Programme field presence in the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States; (c) the piloting of short-term, non-permanent contracts; and (d) United Nations Development Programme initiatives with regard to a field presence in South Africa;

3. Takes further note of the accounting treatment of the transitional costs relating to the implementation of the 1994-1995 budget strategy, as approved by the Governing Council in its decision 93/35 of 18 June 1993;

4. Recalls its decision 94/32 regarding the Office of Project Services, in particular, in this context, to those elements that relate to the OPS budget estimates and future arrangements concerning the presentation thereof.

10 October 1994

United Nations Development Programme revised budget estimates for the biennium 1994-1995 for administrative services, programme support and development activities and trust funds
(Thousands of United States dollars)

	APPROVES:	TAKES NOTE OF:	
	Gross/net appropriations	Estimated extra-budgetary income	Total gross/net estimates
I. RESOURCES OF UNDP			
A. UNDP core activities a/			
Headquarters b/	148 903.3	24 705.4	173 608.7
Country Offices	231 098.6	37 488.6	268 587.2
Gross UNDP core activities	380 001.9	62 194.0	442 195.9
Estimated income	36 700.0	0.0	36 700.0
Net UNDP core activities	343 301.9	62 194.0	405 495.9
B. Programme support and development activities			
Programme development activities	25 914.7	0.0	25 914.7
Support to the operational activities of the United Nations	93 478.1	0.0	93 478.1
Project/programme implementation services			
DSS	6 225.0	0.0	6 225.0
OPS c/	31 126.2	37 100.0	68 226.2
IAPSO	5 925.9	2 865.8	8 791.7
UNV	31 241.0	406.2	31 647.2
National execution	3 140.0	0.0	3 140.0
Total project/programme implementation services	77 658.1	40 372.0	118 030.1
Programme support d/	2 300.0	0.0	2 300.0
Total programme support and development activities	199 350.9	40 372.0	239 722.9
C. Total resources of UNDP			
Gross resources	579 352.8	102 566.0	681 918.8
Estimated income	36 700.0	0.0	36 700.0
Net resources	542 652.8	102 566.0	645 218.3
II. RESOURCES OF TRUST FUNDS			
A. UNCDF	11 778.9	0.0	11 778.9
B. UNRFNRE and UNFSTD	2 357.0	313.8	2 670.8
C. UNSO	7 779.0	3 586.6	11 365.6
D. UNIFEM	6 614.3	466.1	7 080.4
Total	28 529.2	4 366.5	32 895.7
III. TOTAL UNDP APPROPRIATION			
Gross appropriation	607 882.0	106 932.5	714 814.5
Estimated income	36 700.0	0.0	36 700.0
Net UNDP appropriation	571 182.0	106 932.5	678 114.5

a/ The Administrator is permitted to redeploy between the country office and headquarters appropriation lines up to a maximum of 5 per cent.
b/ Headquarters extrabudgetary income represents income from external sources, exclusive of reimbursements to UNDP core from non-core units. The reimbursements are already included in the appropriation estimates of the non-core units.
c/ The approved appropriation is funded from UNDP general resources.
d/ Represents UNDP contribution to CGIAR and UNDP-UNSO/UNEP joint venture.

Source: Table B from document DP/1994/35 attached for ease of reference.

94/30. Harmonization of presentation of budgets and accounts

The Executive Board

Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, in the context of General Assembly decision 47/449 of 22 December 1992, General Assembly resolution 48/216, part C, of 23 December 1993 and the observations made at the current session with regard to the format of budget and account presentations, to cooperate with other United Nations programmes and funds to work towards harmonizing their presentation of budgets and accounts with a view to achieving common definitions, particularly of administrative costs, and obtaining a higher degree of financial transparency and comparability, and to report thereon to the Executive Board at its third regular session in 1995.

10 October 1994

C. Audit reports (DP/1994/37 and Add.1)

57. The Assistant Administrator invited the Board to consider whether it wished to continue receiving the reports by external auditors of executing agencies as formal documents. In that regard, one delegation indicated that UNDP should report only on problem areas while another considered that it found the reports useful and would like to continue to receive them.

58. The Executive Board took note of the audit reports (DP/1994/37 and Add.1)

D. Status of management service agreements (DP/1994/56)

59. The Assistant Administrator indicated that the use of management service agreements (MSAs) had continued to grow. He further added that MSAs assisted recipient governments in making best use of donor resources for development efforts.

60. In response to one delegation's question on the concentration of MSAs in Latin America, UNDP explained that, given the small IPFs in the region, the MSA was a modality to increase resources through co-financing by international financial institutions, governments and UNDP. At the request of one delegation, UNDP would ensure that formats of existing reports on cost-sharing and MSAs would allow review by region.

61. The Executive Board took note of the report of the Administrator on the status of management service agreements (DP/1994/56).

V. UNFPA FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

62. For consideration of agenda item 5, the Executive Board had before it the annual financial review, 1993 (DP/1994/53). Complementary information on the delineation of administrative and programme support expenditures was also made available to the Board.

63. The Executive Director referred to the financial highlights of UNFPA for 1993. She commented that UNFPA total income in 1993 was $219.6 million, or 7.8 per cent less than that of 1992, largely the result of severe economic difficulties in a few donor countries that had resulted in lower-than-expected contributions. She reported that the resource situation for 1994 had improved, with estimated contributions amounting to $247 million, or 12.5 per cent more than in 1993.

64. She stated that total expenditures in 1993 were $203.5 million (compared to $193.5 million in 1992) or $16 million less than total income; programme expenditures in 1993 had also increased to $158.4 million (from $151 million in 1992). However, programme expenditures had fallen short of the 1993 target, resulting in $47.3 million of unspent resources at year-end. The Executive Director attributed the underexpenditure to the uncertainty surrounding the Fund's financial situation, in particular the possibly reduced funding levels from Governments experiencing economic difficulties, which had resulted in conservative resource planning and programme development; the suspension of activities supported by UNFPA in a number of countries because of civil and political unrest; unduly complicated programming procedures and policies that were too restrictive and not responsive to changing circumstances at the country level.

65. The Executive Director identified measures that the Fund had taken to help improve matters, including removing cumbersome programming procedures; planning at more realistic resource levels; taking steps to help ensure that project expenditure data from the field were processed more expeditiously, thereby allowing UNFPA to make important programming decisions more quickly; introducing new measures by which UNFPA field offices could more accurately project the year-end total expenditures, thus assisting senior management in making global projections on UNFPA programme dynamics; increasing efforts in institution-building and adjusting operational policies to the realities at the country level; and placing greater emphasis on such execution modalities as NGO channels.

66. Regarding UNFPA administrative and programme support services (APSS) budget, the Executive Director mentioned that in 1993, the Fund's net expenses for APSS-related matters amounted to $45.1 million, thus realizing gross savings of $10.4 million in addition to the $7 million previously reported to ACABQ and the Governing Council. She pointed out that the Fund's APSS budget contained both administrative support and programme support, including costs directly linked to the planning, development, implementation and evaluation of country and intercountry programmes. She also referred to the schedules made available to the Executive Board that showed that administrative expenditure in the 1992-1993 biennium amounted to only 30 per cent of the overall APSS expenditures.

Summary of the discussion

67. Many delegations thanked the Executive Director for her clear, concise and comprehensive statement and the useful information contained in the annual financial review document. Several delegations expressed appreciation for the comprehensiveness and transparency of the presentation of material in the document, and one suggested that, in future years, the annual financial review should contain projections of income and expenditures.

68. Several delegations referred to the APSS budget and commented on its size relative to the programme expenditure level of the Fund (table 2 of document DP/1994/53). One stated that, in historical terms, the ratio had increased over the past 10 years, from 12.7 per cent in 1983 to 22.2 per cent in 1993 (table 13 (b). He welcomed the savings realized in the current biennium and asked what steps could be taken to reduce the budget further, in particular as regarded the headquarters portion. Another welcomed the Fund's emphasis on office automation and asked if UNFPA had realized savings as a result.

69. Some delegations noted the lack of comparability of financial data between United Nations agencies and organizations, and mentioned that the UNICEF Executive Board had adopted decision 94/R.3/6 calling on UNICEF to harmonize its accounting treatment, format and financial definitions with those of other United Nations agencies. One delegation thus proposed that a similar decision be adopted for both UNDP and UNFPA.

70. Several delegations expressed concern over the level of underexpenditure in 1993 and requested information pertaining to the projected programme expenditure level for 1994. One delegation commented on the relative ease with which procurement services might be used to increase delivery.

71. Some delegations noted that the data appeared to indicate that government execution was decreasing as a proportion of total expenditures rather than increasing, as they would have hoped. They further observed that UNFPA execution had increased correspondingly. One delegation noted the high level of unspent advances to governments and NGOs and sought clarification on the matter.

72. Several delegations focused on related programming matters. One delegation asked if different programme areas had a different effect on expenditure rates, enquiring in particular whether it was easier to spend money on procurement activities than on more comprehensive programme activities. Another delegation sought clarification as to why expenditures in the Africa region had declined since 1991, even though the needs in that region continued to rise. A third delegation emphasized the importance of the country strategy note and close government-UNFPA collaboration in programme development and implementation, and stressed the need to improve monitoring of programme implementation.

Response of the Administration

73. The Executive Director welcomed the efforts of the Executive Board to harmonize financial definitions among United Nations agencies and organizations, noting that she was confident that UNFPA administrative costs would compare favourably with those of the other agencies. The Administration also pointed out that the ratio of APSS to total expenditure would have been lower (17 per cent) had UNFPA managed to deliver the programme it had initially planned. Furthermore, the budget presentation for the previous year had shown that the increase in office automation at UNFPA had had a positive impact on the efficiency and effectiveness of UNFPA staff, which had been able to carry out a much larger workload than otherwise would have been the case. Procurement activities, in particular, had experienced a dramatic increase in workload in the last few years without a commensurate increase in staff. Partly as a result of office automation, UNFPA had not had to request additional staff in its budget proposal despite a significant increase in anticipated programme activity. The Administration mentioned that the APSS budget for 1994 was expected to total net $50 million.

74. In response to comments concerning the historical trend in APSS costs, the Administration noted that the trend indicated in table 13 (b) was not what it appeared on the surface since the figures given for each year did not necessarily include the same components and thus were not strictly comparable

over the 10-year period. For example, as noted in footnote (d) to the table, in 1985 and prior years, all field office costs were included in programme expenditures. In 1986 and 1987, the salary costs of UNFPA international field office staff were included in the APSS budget for the first time, and all other costs of the UNFPA field offices were reported under programme expenditures. Beginning only in January 1988 were all field office costs included in the APSS budget.

75. Responding to questions regarding the 1993 underexpenditure, the Executive Director acknowledged that it was also a serious concern of UNFPA. She referred to the low staffing situation in UNFPA field offices as a contributory factor and explained that UNFPA was reluctant to request an increase in staff owing to the adverse effect it would have on the APSS budget. She also noted, however, that the Fund's reporting procedures had not been as efficient and timely as perhaps they should be, as most expenditure figures were currently reported in the second part of the year under consideration and final figures were not available until March or April of the following year. UNFPA was therefore investigating ways to get more timely information on expenditure data, including the use of more effective management information systems.

76. The Administration further mentioned that uncertainty over funding together with fluctuations in income throughout the year, had had a negative effect on UNFPA's ability to plan its programme properly. The Fund therefore had recently introduced a new financial monitoring mechanism designed to help with the management of project and programme delivery by requiring its Country Directors to report to headquarters every two months on their forecasts for year-end expenditures. Such information would enable UNFPA to shift funds from one country programme to another, provided the amounts involved did not exceed that which had been approved by the Governing Council or Executive Board. The Administration emphasized, however, that unless and until the resource situation was consistent and predictable, it would continue to be extremely difficult to ensure the smooth and timely implementation of the UNFPA programme.

77. The Executive Director emphasized that it was quite easy to spend money. The Fund's aim, however, was to spend it effectively and efficiently and in a way that ensured that the quality of its projects and programmes was maintained. She was pleased in that regard that UNFPA would be able to channel country programme funds to emergency relief operations such as those under way in Rwanda. She noted that discussions were being conducted with Médecins sans frontières, the International Red Cross and other NGOs on the best way to pursue UNFPA's goals in the area.

78. Concerning the question of unspent advances to Governments, the Administration pointed out that, as a result of an accounting problem, approximately $4 million of government-executed expenditures had been reported as unspent in 1993, thus increasing the size of the underexpenditure as well as the level of cash advances on hand with recipient Governments. UNFPA assured the Board that such an accounting problem would not occur in future, and noted that the Fund had taken steps to improve the management of advances to Governments and NGOs more generally in order to keep the level of advances to a minimum.

79. The Administration pointed out that if UNFPA used a definition of government execution similar to that used by UNDP (i.e., national execution), government-executed projects, taken together with UNFPA support to such projects, would total 38 per cent ($50.6 million) of all programme expenditures in 1993 (the corresponding figures for 1991 and 1992 were 26 per cent ($44.3 million) and 38 per cent ($49.3 million), respectively), and would not show a declining trend as one delegation had indicated.

80. In response to the question whether it was easier to spend money on procurement activities than on more comprehensive programme activities, the

Administration pointed out that increased procurement activity could improve programme delivery rates. It further explained, however, that procurement activities involved far more than the purchase of commodities. Indeed, the Fund had to ensure that the commodities purchased could be adequately distributed and effectively utilized. That was all the more difficult in the case of UNFPA procurement since the Fund usually worked through the Ministries of Health, which typically were understaffed and underfunded. The Fund therefore had to spend a great deal of staff time and money to help strengthen relevant government institutional structures.

81. In that context, the more general issue of understaffing in UNFPA field offices and how it related to programme implementation was raised. UNFPA field offices had to perform more or less the same functions as their UNDP and UNICEF counterparts yet they usually had much smaller staffs. This was compounded by the extremely demanding advocacy function they had to perform in addition to their functions related to programme formulation, implementation, coordination and monitoring. The Administration emphasized, therefore, that increased programme implementation implied an expanded UNFPA field presence.

82. In response to questions concerning the level of national execution as it related to programming as opposed to budget considerations, the Administration explained that since the establishment of UNFPA Country Support Teams (CSTs) in 1991 and 1992, project costs consisted primarily of four components: technical cooperation, which was provided by the CSTs; equipment and supplies; local costs (training, salaries, etc.) and training abroad. UNFPA procured equipment and supplies for countries at their request since it had the advantage of economies of scale in such procurement. Although the procurement was recorded as "UNFPA execution", the projects themselves were usually executed by the Government. In addition, UNFPA had recently adopted a more flexible approach concerning local costs and thus would be providing more funding for such costs in the future.

83. Concerning the issue of declining expenditures in Africa, the Administration noted that many countries in the region had experienced political unrest that had affected the implementation of their programmes. That raised the larger issue of resource use in countries experiencing political difficulties or those with low absorptive capacity. UNFPA was committed to providing assistance to the countries in the Africa region, in particular to the least developed countries there. But in many cases that would require building up national capacity, particularly of the Ministries of Health and of Education, to implement the programmes, which would further require long-term funding commitments, especially with respect to supporting operational costs on a sustained basis. In those cases where capacity-building was progressing at a slow pace, or in countries experiencing political unrest, the Fund might have to redirect resources earmarked for those countries to countries with higher absorptive capacities.

84. In response to the observation concerning close government-UNFPA collaboration, the Administration noted that it strongly supported the country strategy note approach and agreed that the note provided the most effective mechanism for developing, implementing, coordinating and monitoring programmes. Still, the Fund had taken steps to improve programme implementation and monitoring, intensifying training in financial management and in programme monitoring, and strengthening the capacity of its management information systems in the field. It had also been working closely with its partners in the JCGP to develop a common monitoring system, but that took time.

Executive board action

85. The Executive Board took note of the annual financial review, 1993, as contained in document DP/1994/53. (See also decision 94/30 on the harmonization of presentation of budgets and accounts, adopted under agenda item 4, which applies to both UNDP and UNFPA.)

VI. UNFPA: FOLLOW UP TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

86. In her oral presentation of agenda item 6, the Executive Director noted that the reactions to the outcome and achievements of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) had been extremely positive. It was now necessary to ensure that the optimism that had emerged from the ICPD process and that had been reflected in the Programme of Action was turned into tangible benefits for people everywhere. An unprecedented range of groups and individuals had participated in the extensive preparatory process of the ICPD. That had been a key factor in the success of the ICPD and would have far-reaching consequences for the implementation of the Programme of Action.

87. The Executive Director noted that UNFPA had already initiated the process of implementing the Programme of Action. The Fund had written to all of its field offices to start immediately, together with national authorities, NGOs and United Nations partner organizations, to disseminate and publicize the outcomes of the ICPD, as called for in the Programme of Action. She had also asked UNFPA field offices to re-convene the national committees that had participated in ICPD process. UNFPA field offices reported that countries had started to develop implementation plans. She suggested that such plans should address various issues, including the review and revision of policies, the reallocation of resources and the definition of programme content and plans.

88. The Fund was also in the process of reviewing its policy guidelines and programmes in order to ensure that UNFPA policies and practices fully reflected and promoted the Programme of Action. That was particularly true in the area of family planning, where the Fund was preparing interim guidelines to accommodate the Programme's broader definition of reproductive health. A similar process was under way in the area of information, education and communication, in particular regarding the role of such activities in support of reproductive health, gender concerns and education of girls.

89. The Executive Director stressed that the non-governmental sector had had a profound impact on the ICPD process. NGOs had brought with them their experience and their commitment and had taken away with them a new role as full partners in the cause of population and development. In recognition of the important role NGOs were playing in many developing countries, UNFPA would be looking at practical ways of further expanding the involvement of NGOs in UNFPA-financed activities. She therefore proposed that a block allocation mechanism be instituted within UNFPA to fund innovative NGO activities directly in order to promote their participation.

90. The Executive Director said that she hoped it would be possible for the General Assembly at its current session to take some decisions on follow-up to and implementation of the Programme of Action, including the question of a separate Executive Board for UNFPA. In closing, she invited members of the Board to provide guidance to UNFPA on the directions UNFPA should take as it formulated its ICPD implementation plans, and noted that UNFPA would possibly submit a draft paper on the issue to the Executive Board at its first regular session 1995. UNFPA anticipated that the Board would require several sessions to discuss and reflect on a number of substantive issues involved in the process.

91. Several delegations took the opportunity of the Executive Director's oral report to thank her and the UNFPA staff for helping to make the ICPD an outstanding success. They welcomed the immediate and positive steps the Fund had taken in line with the Programme of Action. One delegation noted, however, that the success of the Programme of Action depended on the international community's ability to implement it. It also required the sustained efforts of Governments and NGOs. The same delegation emphasized the importance of enhanced coordination among United Nations agencies and organizations.

92. Several delegations welcomed the enhanced emphasis on NGOs and the vital role those organizations played in meeting the needs of people. One delegation asked, however, how UNFPA planned to involve NGOs and to make use of the commercial and private sectors. He further noted the need for a substantial increase in resources from all sources but stressed that UNFPA had to demonstrate that it could make effective use of such resources. He said a mechanism was needed to monitor UNFPA actions in this area.

93. A number of delegations identified areas requiring attention, including, inter alia, promoting the small family norm; improving family planning and reproductive health services; reducing maternal and infant mortality; ensuring gender equality; promoting the rights of adolescents and children; promoting collaboration among partners at all levels; emphasizing national-level action in programme implementation and providing requisite technical support to strengthen national capacity to do so; and strengthening linkages between national and international actions.

94. In response to comments and questions, the Executive Director noted that in February 1995 the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) would discuss interagency coordination with regard to the ICPD Programme of Action. She said that an ACC interagency task force could possibly be re-instituted to help monitor the follow up on the Programme of Action. Moreover, the 1995 high-level segment of the ECOSOC on operational activities would be devoted to the ICPD and the Programme of Action, and the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) would meet on 29-30 November 1994 to discuss resource mobilization in the wake of the ICPD. She noted that UNFPA had been active in promoting South-South cooperation, notably in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Mexico, Thailand and Tunisia, and that many countries were interested in that type of collaboration. She further emphasized that meeting the needs of people had been shown to be the most effective way of achieving national demographic goals.

VII. MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMMING CYCLES

A. Possible options for a structure for the next programming period

95. The Director of the Bureau for Resources and External Affairs introduced the report (DP/1994/59), noting that at the current session the secretariat needed the guidance of the Executive Board on the broad range of possible options presented in the report in order to advance preparations for the establishment of the next programming period, scheduled to take place in June 1995. The item would also be reviewed at all the intervening sessions of the Board in order to achieve steady progress in arriving at consensus on the framework. He suggested that, based on the present discussions, the secretariat would summarize the aspects the Board would like to have covered for review at the first regular session 1995.

96. The report of the Administrator on his endeavour to find resources to enable restoration of indicative planning figures to the original levels (DP/1994/1) was also introduced.

97. More than 30 delegations commented on document DP/1994/59. They expressed their appreciation to the secretariat for a clear and thought-provoking report, which presented options that reflected the full range of discussions that had taken place in June 1994. One delegation pointed out that the report had not elaborated on the operational application of the sustainable human development goals and focus areas endorsed by Executive Board decision 94/14. A number of delegations reiterated that in that context national priorities should remain the underlying basis for all programming.

98. The discussion overwhelmingly confirmed that voluntary contributions to the core should remain the bedrock of UNDP programming. There was also considerable interest in ensuring that legislation for the next programming period explicitly take account of both core and non-core funding. Many speakers requested clarification of how the resource mobilization target (RMT) and target for resource assignments from core (TRAC) concepts would relate to national planning and country programming processes. A number of delegations were concerned about national planning and UNDP programming difficulties that could arise if targets were not established on a realistic basis.

99. A number of delegations supported the concept of a three-year rolling cycle for resource planning and management and several requested further clarification on how that might be meshed with longer-term national planning and country programming processes. In that connection, several delegations noted the need to take into account General Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993 as it pertained to the harmonization of programming cycles among the funds and programmes. Several delegations requested an assessment of the possible impact of such a system on UNDP working modalities, noting that rolling cycles might involve additional workload for the secretariat and recipient countries. Several delegations were interested in an elaboration of the proposal on flexible assignment of country resources within a fixed regional allocation although others expressed caution about such an approach.

100. A few delegations requested an elaboration of the proposal regarding a limited system of assessed contributions to finance the costs of the UNDP country office network and the resident coordinator functions. Several delegations indicated they did not favour such a proposal. Some delegations stated that such a move should in any case be considered in the context of the ongoing discussions on financing mechanisms in the General Assembly.

101. Various delegations supported increases in the allocations for Special Programme Resources (SPR) as well as for global, interregional and regional programmes. Several speakers noted the need for programmes in the latter category to be made more complementary with country-level activities and one delegation noted the particular relevance of subregional programmes. Although some speakers felt it was premature to determine the magnitude of the allocations for the various programmes, the Executive Board agreed it would be useful to review specific proposals at its first regular session 1995.

102. With respect to distribution criteria for country-level assignment of core resources, there was general agreement that gross national product continued to be used as a primary criterion. There was also considerable interest in further exploration of population below the poverty line as a criterion in order to compare it with the criterion of total population. Many speakers encouraged further examination of the possible use of other indicators, including social indicators. The examination should include the application of a range of weights for the distribution criteria and their individual components. A few delegations expressed a preference for the features of the current distribution methodology. Several speakers also stressed the need to make the methodology as simple and transparent as possible, and a few pointed out the desirability of harmonizing the criteria used with those of other organizations e.g., the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

103. The majority of speakers who expressed a preference favoured option 6 as set out in the annex to the document, with several delegations noting the merits of options 2, 3 and 4. To assess the alternatives, the Executive Board indicated it would need to review quantitative scenarios outlining the resultant distribution of resources by region and subregion as well as by category of countries (e.g., least developed countries and/or low-income countries). For the purpose of generating the scenarios, many delegations agreed that the secretariat could use the $1.25 billion resource base suggested in the document. However, several speakers questioned the realism

of the target given recent contribution levels and suggested that the scenarios might also be generated using a lower resource base.

104. A considerable number of speakers supported the possibility of increasing the current graduation thresholds, with some noting that such action would better preserve the principle of universality and encourage additional resource mobilization in the affected countries. One delegation noted that corresponding increases should apply to graduation thresholds pertaining to island developing countries. Another delegation proposed that actual thresholds be replaced by the eligibility criterion used in the Global Environment Facility. One delegation proposed that the current threshold for graduation be reduced, as a clear indication of support to the lowest-income countries, but reviewed in the context of overall graduation principles.

105. On the basis of the foregoing discussions, the secretariat crystallized those aspects of the subject it intended to cover in greater detail at the first regular session 1995. In the ensuing discussion, a number of delegations emphasized particular elements that the secretariat should include in its next submission and some speakers highlighted additional points that should be taken into account. The secretariat agreed to produce a document along those lines.

B. Programming matters: IPF level for Haiti

106. The Executive Board also reviewed a proposal jointly submitted by several delegations concerning the restoration of the IPF for Haiti to its original level. In discussing the matter, many delegations expressed sympathy for the situation in Haiti but noted that other countries had comparable humanitarian and rehabilitation needs and that the Board should be cautious about setting a precedent. Several speakers suggested that it might be more appropriate to deal with resource mobilization through a round-table or similar process.

107. On the basis of information provided by the secretariat on the current status of IPF programming in Haiti, and after further consultations among delegations, the Board adopted the following decision:

94/31. Matters relating to the programming cycle: Haiti

The Executive Board

Requests the Administrator to prepare for the first regular session in January 1995 an assessment of Haiti's development needs and activities in order to review the level of available fifth cycle resources for the years 1995-1996 under the assumption that in the meantime unspent resources can be used to support immediate needs of the country.

10 October 1994

VIII. OFFICE FOR PROJECT SERVICES

108. The Administrator introduced his report on the role and functions of the Management Coordination Committee (DP/1994/61) and reviewed the overall sequence of events regarding the status of OPS. He indicated that the present submission differed from previous ones in that it reflected a consensus view on OPS of the Office of the Secretary-General, the Department of Administration and Management, the Department for Development Support and Management Services, UNDP, and OPS; that it presented all elements ready to be

put in place as of 1 January 1995; and that staff representatives of UNDP and OPS had been involved in the discussions. He considered that the proposals put forth were workable and would preserve the self-financing principle of OPS. Noting that discussion of the OPS issue had for two years been diverting attention from the overriding concern for the quality of OPS service, resulting in a reduction in new business for OPS, the Administrator urged the Executive Board to give favourable consideration to the proposed arrangements.

109. The Executive Director introduced his report on ways of establishing the office as a separate and identifiable entity (DP/1994/62 and Add.1-3). He focused on the developments that had occurred between the submission of document DP/1994/62 and the third session, including Economic and Social Council decision 1994/284 and General Assembly resolution 48/501, the ACABQ report (DP/1994/57), and the opinion of the United Nations Legal Counsel that the proposed annex to UNDP Financial Regulations circulated on 6 October under cover of conference room paper DP/1994/CRP.11 conformed with the legal requirements of the United Nations, and met the requirements of Executive Board decision 94/12 and the proposals in document DP/1994/62 and Add.1-3. Highlighting the work that still needed to be done in order to establish UNOPS as of 1 January 1995, he requested that the Board give its go-ahead at the current session.

110. Delegations were in general agreement on the need to take a decision that would lead to UNOPS being established and operational by 1 January 1995. Several delegations stressed their concern to ensure that UNOPS, while being established as a separate and identifiable entity, would not be created as a new agency. Several also wished to clarify that UNOPS was expected not to undertake funding activities. Some delegations, while acknowledging that the complexity of the administrative arrangements was due in part to the equally complex nature of the compromise on which the proposals were based, wished further clarity on the roles and functions of the Management Coordination Committee (MCC) and the Users Advisory Group vis-à-vis the Executive Board. Some also wished the role of the Administrator, as Chairman of the MCC, to be further clarified, with one delegation considering that ultimate accountability for UNOPS should rest with the Administrator. Numerous delegations considered that they had been unable to review fully the changes to the proposed Financial Regulations that had been distributed at the session (DP/1994/CRP.11); whereas some were willing to grant provisional approval on condition that any amendments, if found necessary, would be made in 1995, others were unwilling to endorse them without further study. Several delegations raised questions about the establishment and level of the proposed Reserve, and about the need for more checks and balances in personnel issues. One delegation agreed with the principles on which UNOPS was to be established and opposed placing any new restrictions on its ability to provide services. Some questions were raised with regard to national execution with the Assistant Administrator, BFA, and the Executive Director reiterating the continued commitment of UNDP and OPS to national execution. Several delegations inquired about the relationship between UNOPS and the specialized agencies, and the membership of the Users Advisory Group. The Executive Director confirmed the intent of OPS to continue strengthening its partnerships with specialized agencies and expressed willingness to consider broadening participation in the Users Advisory Group.

111. Following informal consultations, a draft decision was presented to the Executive Board. One delegation urged that the OPS question be brought to a final resolution at the first regular session 1995 and suggested that consultations between the UNDP and OPS secretariats producing the next proposal and members of the Board might facilitate achievement of that resolution.

112. One representative noted that his delegation was willing to accept the decision on the understanding that in paragraph 9 the sense of "through the Management Coordination Committee" was in French "under the responsibility of the Management Coordination Committee".

113. The Executive Board adopted the following decision:

94/32. Office for Project Services

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director of the Office for Project Services (DP/1994/62 and Add.1-3) while underlining that the United Nations Office for Project Services will undertake implementation and not funding activities;

2. Takes note of the Administrator's report (DP/1994/61) and endorses the establishment of the Management Coordination Committee referred to therein and the Users Advisory Group referred to in document DP/1994/62/Add.1;

3. Authorizes the Administrator and Executive Director to proceed further with the implementation of decision 94/12, to this end taking all steps necessary to establish a self-financing United Nations Office for Project Services that will become a separate and identifiable entity as of 1 January 1995;

4. Reaffirms that the United Nations Office for Project Services will operate within the United Nations development system and will not become a new agency and that the requirements regarding accountability must be consistent with the decision not to establish a new agency as contained in paragraph 3 of decision 94/12;

5. Takes note of the breakdown of the revised 1994-1995 budget estimates for the Office for Project Services, as contained in document DP/1994/62/Add.3, and recalls its decision 94/29 approving the 1994-1995 estimates for the United Nations Development Programme, including the Office for Project Services;

6. Approves that, in future, the Office for Project Services biennial budget estimates be presented separately from those of the United Nations Development Programme;

7. Decides that the relocation of posts to the field and the establishment of any posts shall be subject to the agreement of the Management Coordination Committee and the ex post facto approval of the Board, with the proviso that posts at the D-1 level and above must receive the advance approval of the Board;

8. Takes note of the proposed financial regulations of the United Nations Office for Project Services and decides to review them at its first regular session in 1995 and that, in the intervening period, the financial regulations of the United Nations Development Programme will continue to apply mutatis mutandis;

9. Requests the Executive Director to report annually on activities of the United Nations Office for Project Services to the Executive Board through the Management Coordination Committee;

10. Requests the Administrator and the Executive Director to submit a specific proposal for the consideration of the Executive Board at its first regular session in 1995, outlining the proposed scope and objectives for the United Nations Office for Project Services, as well as the roles and functions of the Management Coordination Committee and Users Advisory Group vis-à-vis the Executive Board.

10 October 1994

IX. UNITED NATIONS TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

114. The Under-Secretary-General of the Department for Development Support and Management Services (DDSMS) introduced the annual report of the Secretary-General on United Nations technical cooperation activities carried out by the Secretariat and in particular by DDSMS (DP/1994/26 and Add. 1 and 2). He noted that the report provided an overview of the programmes and capacities of the Department, highlighting the responses to priorities identified by the Governing Council in its decision 93/30 of 18 June 1993, and in response to General Assembly resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992. Accordingly, the report emphasized recent steps taken to sharpen the technical focus of DDSMS activities; increase the support to national capacity-building efforts; strengthen collaboration between DDSMS and the United Nations regional commissions, and with other entities of the Secretariat; and foster greater synergy between the Department and UNDP.

115. Delegations welcomed the positive indications of progress given in the report and the related information on mandates, programmes and activities. They encouraged DDSMS to continue along those lines. Comments were raised on the following issues.

116. Some delegations felt that the effort to project the central functions of the Department as pertaining to governance and public management put too sharp a focus on the range of responsibilities in which DDSMS was actually engaged, including, for example, a considerable programme in natural resources and energy. They preferred to consider DDSMS as the provider of multiple, though increasingly integrated services, as outlined in the annex to document DP/1994/26. Delegations asked for further clarification as to the mandate and intergovernmental supervision for the activities in governance and public management, inquired as to the means for augmenting the normative functions of the Department, and sought to distinguish the responsibilities of DDSMS from other Secretariat departments dealing with economic and social matters.

117. One delegation specifically welcomed the work of the Transition Economies Unit of the Department and urged that it become more active in additional countries.

118. On the subject of relationships with other entities, delegations favoured closer substantive linkages between UNDP and DDSMS. They also wished to ensure that the Department and OPS would collaborate and not duplicate each other.

119. One delegation inquired as to the rationale for review by the Executive Board of the technical cooperation work of DDSMS rather than by the Economic and Social Council, which led to considerable discussion of the history of intergovernmental supervision of those units of the Secretariat undertaking such activities, the types of functions best undertaken by the Executive Board, and the desirability that one or the other body give greater attention to and guidance for the relevant work of DDSMS.

120. With regard to intergovernmental guidance, the Associate Administrator noted that any modification of the current arrangements would likely be a matter for the General Assembly to decide, as a possible successor to the resolution it had adopted on the subject at the time of the establishment of UNDP (resolution 2029 (XX) of 22 November 1965).

121. Responding to questions, the Under-Secretary-General, DDSMS, remarked that the identity given to governance and public management in DDSMS functions was intended to be broad rather than exclusive. "Integrated development management" was an expression that perhaps more clearly represented the common thread within the mandates applicable to the various sectors within the Department's purview. Relevant guidance was obtained from each of the substantive bodies to which DDSMS reported, but most specifically from the

biennial Meetings of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance, which was a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council. As a general rule, the normative functions of DDSMS were identified in resolutions of the General Assembly, and in the relevant sections of the United Nations medium-term plan and programme budget. Their magnitude was largely dependent upon the allocations of regular budget resources. DDSMS and other Secretariat entities cooperated under a distribution of functions that focused priority upon matters of, for example, policy coordination, analysis, or operational activities.

122. With regard to relations with the regional commissions, the Under-Secretary-General noted the establishment of a Natural Resources and Energy Management Board, which he chaired, to use more effectively the expertise available at headquarters and in the commissions, and to engage in joint activities. Concerning OPS, he stated that he and the OPS Executive Director were taking steps to encourage collaboration, by which each could call upon the comparative advantages of the other. As for UNDP, efforts were under way to strengthen substantive linkages in several areas, including economic management, public management, the private sector, and the environment.

123. The Executive Board adopted the following decision:

94/27. United Nations technical cooperation activities

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General (DP/1994/26 and Add. 1-2);

2. Notes and encourages the steps being taken towards closer collaboration between the Department for Development Support and Management Services and the regional commissions, and other entities of the Secretariat, and between the Department and the United Nations Development Programme in relation to areas of common concern and, in this context, urges the Programme to consider greater utilization of the technical capacities of the Department.

10 October 1994

X. OTHER MATTERS

A. The United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office

124. In introducing document DP/1994/58, the acting Deputy Director of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) noted that, in light of Governing Council decision 93/33 and the adoption of the Convention on Desertification, UNDP had taken steps to strengthen its substantive support to desertification control activities. In particular, UNSO had been designated as the central entity within UNDP to spearhead work in desertification control and dryland degradation worldwide, with particular attention to Africa. With respect to financing work in desertification control, it was proposed in the report that the existing UNSO UNDP/UNEP Joint Venture become a special desertification and dryland management facility, jointly supported by UNDP and UNEP to catalyse the mobilization of voluntary contributions.

125. Several delegations expressed appreciation for the work of UNSO in the Sudano-Sahelian region and support for its role as the focal point within UNDP for combating desertification. They welcomed the integration of UNSO into BPPS, and the collaboration with other United Nations organizations, in particular UNEP. One delegation was pleased with the forceful role UNDP and UNSO had played in the negotiating process of the Convention on

Desertification and noted that the national action programme was a country-driven process and included the government, NGOs, affected populations and donors. From the latter, lead partners might be designated during the consultative process within each country. One delegation expressed interest in the support provided by UNSO being made available to other affected regions outside Africa.

126. One delegation observed that UNDP was well placed to host the Global Mechanism of the Convention on Desertification. Another delegation recalled that the focus of the Global Mechanism would be on promoting actions leading to the mobilization and channelling of funds.

127. The Executive Board decided to pursue the discussion on the item at its first regular session 1995.

B. Follow-up to decision 94/15 and new responsibilities assigned to the Administrator by the Secretary-General

128. The Administrator stated that he would inform the Executive Board regularly on follow-up to decision 94/15 on the Human Development Report. He referred to a memorandum he had sent to senior management on the issue, in which he stressed the need to re-emphasize and reinforce the separation between the Human Development Report and UNDP operations. The memorandum also outlined the steps to be taken to fulfil UNDP obligations vis-à-vis the Board and to clarify the status of the Report. A copy of the memorandum was distributed to the Board members for information and comment.

129. The Administrator also provided clarification on the new role assigned to him by the Secretary-General. He stressed that, as clearly stated by the Secretary-General, his role was to assist him by providing ideas, information and analysis, and facilitating his work in ensuring stronger coordination in the United Nations system in the social and economic area. The Administrator informed the Executive Board that to assist him in carrying out his new responsibilities, he had established a separate unit comprised of a small number of Professionals. He would seek help from other funds and programmes and agencies in providing support and staff to the new office. He underscored that he could succeed in his new assignment only with the help and support of the Board members and the cooperation of all concerned.

130. The Administrator added that in the framework of his new assignment, a revised version of the Agenda for development had been prepared on the basis of comments received from governments and inputs given by all programmes and agencies, including the Bretton Woods institutions. The new draft was now in the hands of the Secretary-General.

C. Conclusion of the session

131. The Executive Board concluded its work by adopting the following decision:

94/33. Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its third regular session 1994

The Executive Board

Recalls that during the third regular session 1994 it:

ITEM 1: ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Approved the agenda and work plan for its third regular session 1994 with oral amendments (DP/1993/L.5);

Agreed to the following schedule of future sessions of the Executive Board in New York subject to the approval of the Committee on Conferences:

First regular session: 10-13 January 1995

Second regular session: (Following the third regular session, delegations requested that the dates agreed on for the second regular session (24-27 April 1995) should be changed since they overlapped with a session of the Commission for Sustainable Development. The second regular session was therefore tentatively rescheduled to 4-7 April 1995.)

Annual session: 5-16 June 1995

Third regular session: 28 August-1 September 1995

Agreed to the subjects to be discussed at the 1995 sessions as listed in the annex;

ITEM 2: AGENCY SUPPORT COSTS

Adopted decision 94/26 of 7 October 1994 on agency support costs;

ITEM 3: COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS

Authorized the Administrator to approve programmes and projects on a case-by-case basis for the following countries: Aruba, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Netherlands Antilles, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago (DP/1994/32);

Approved the first country programme for Cambodia (DP/CP/KHM/1);

Took note of the reports on field visits to Philippines and Viet Nam (DP/1994/CRP.2); West Bank and Gaza and Jordan (DP/1994/CRP.3); Kenya and Zimbabwe (DP/1994/CRP.9);

Decided to consider new arrangements for future field visits at its first regular session 1995;

ITEM 4: UNDP FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Adopted decision 94/28 of 10 October 1994 on annual review of the financial situation 1993 and took note of the report of the Administrator on this subject (DP/1994/34 and Corr.1 and Add. 1-4), the comments and observations made and the assurances provided by UNDP;

Adopted decision 94/29 of 10 October 1994 on revised budget estimates for the biennium 1994-1995;

Took note of the report of the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the revised budget estimates for the biennium 1994-1995 (DP/1994/36);

Took note of the Administrator's note on audit reports (DP/1994/37 and Add.1);

Took note of the report of the Administrator on the status of Management Service Agreements (DP/1994/56);

Adopted decision 94/30 of 10 October 1994 on harmonization of presentation of budgets and accounts, concerning both UNDP and UNFPA;

ITEM 5: UNFPA FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Took note of the UNFPA annual financial review, 1993 (DP/1994/53) and the comments made thereon;

Adopted decision 94/30 of 10 October 1994 on harmonization of presentation of budgets and accounts, concerning both UNDP and UNFPA;

ITEM 6: FOLLOW-UP TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Took note of the oral report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development;

ITEM 7: MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMMING CYCLES

Took note of the report of the Administrator on his endeavour to find resources to enable the restoration of indicative planning figures to the original levels (DP/1994/1)

Took note of the report of the Administrator on possible options for a structure for the next programming period (DP/1994/59);

Took note of the declaration "Main Principles and Guidelines for the Sixth Programming Cycle of the United Nations Development Programme", adopted in Santiago on 7 September 1994 by Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay (DP/1994/63);

Decided to consider again the question of a structure for the next programming period at its first regular session 1995;

Adopted decision 94/31 of 10 October 1994 entitled "Matters relating to the programming cycles: Haiti";

ITEM 8: OFFICE FOR PROJECT SERVICES

Adopted decision 94/32 of 10 October 1994 on the Office for Project Services;

Took note of the report of the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the Office for Project Services (DP/1994/57);

ITEM 9: UNITED NATIONS TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

Adopted decision 94/27 of 10 October 1994 on United Nations technical cooperation activities;

ITEM 10: OTHER MATTERS

Decided to resume the consideration of the report of the Administrator on the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (DP/1994/58) at its first regular session 1995.

10 October 1994

Annex

UNDP/UNFPA EXECUTIVE BOARD:

ALLOCATION OF SUBJECTS FOR SESSIONS IN 1995

The following subjects are scheduled to be considered at the 1995 sessions:

First regular session (10-13 January 1995)

- Organizational matters (including election of Bureau and working methods)
- Matters relating to the programming cycles (94/17, paragraph 4)
- Haiti's development needs and activities (94/31)
- Country programmes (including new arrangements for field visits)
- United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (resumed consideration of DP/1994/58)
- Proposed revisions to UNDP Financial Regulations and Rules related to support cost arrangements
- Three-year plan for the utilization of the Reserve for Field Accommodation (94/28, paragraph 5)
- Audit reports: Follow-up to recommendations of the report of the Board of Auditors for the 1992-1993 biennium
- Proposal to relocate the headquarters of the United Nations Volunteers programme from Geneva to Bonn
- United Nations Office for Project Services (94/32, paragraphs 8 and 10)
- UNFPA: Interim report on the programme priorities and future directions of UNFPA in the light of the ICPD
- UNFPA: Audit reports (DP/1994/54)
- Programme of work for future sessions (including follow-up to and preparations for the Economic and Social Council

Second regular session
(tentatively rescheduled to 4-7 April 1995)

- Organizational matters
- Matters relating to the programming cycles (94/17, paragraph 4)
- Country programmes (including reports on field visits 1995)
- Mid-term reviews
- Evaluation
- Matters relating to the least developed countries
- Assistance to the Palestinian people

- HIV/AIDS National Professional Officers (94/6, paragraph 5)

- United Nations Development Fund for Women

- United Nations Capital Development Fund (93/32, paragraph 8)

- UNFPA country programmes and projects:

  Africa (Benin; Comoros; Mauritius; Mozambique)
  Arab States and Europe (Sudan; Turkey)
  Asia and the Pacific (Cambodia (project); Central Asian Republics; Indonesia)
  Latin America and the Caribbean (Costa Rica)

- Report on the implementation of UNFPA successor support cost arrangements

- Programme of work for future sessions (including follow-up to and preparations for the Economic and Social Council

Note

The biennial TCDC High-level Meeting is scheduled to be held from 30 May to 2 June 1995, immediately preceding the annual session.

Annual session (5-16 June 1995)

- Organizational matters

- Annual report of the Administrator

- Follow-up to General Assembly resolution 47/199 (94/23)

- Future of UNDP (94/14, paragraph 6)

- Matters relating to the programming cycles (94/17, paragraph 4)

- Human Development Report (94/15, paragraph 3)

- The role of UNDP in the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (94/13, paragraph 4)

- Technical cooperation among developing countries (92/2, paragraph 5 (e))

- United Nations Office for Project Services (94/32, paragraph 9)

- United Nations technical cooperation activities

- UNFPA: Report of the Executive Director for 1994 (including status of implementation of UNFPA Africa strategy, implementation of resolution 47/199, Global Initiative on Contraceptive Requirements, UNFPA assistance to Rwanda)

- UNFPA: Work plan and request for programme expenditure authority

- UNFPA: Status of financial implementation of country programmes and projects

- Report on programme priorities and future directions of UNFPA in light of the ICPD
- Report to the Economic and Social Council
- Programme of work for future sessions

Third regular session (28 August - 1 September 1995)

- Organizational matters
- Follow-up to the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council
- Country programmes (including reports on field visits 1995)
- Mid-term reviews
- Agency support costs (91/32)
- Annual review of the financial situation 1994
- Revised budget estimates for the 1994-1995 biennium
- Budget estimates for the 1996-1997 biennium
- Report of ACABQ on the budget estimates
- Audit reports: Summary of significant observations of the external auditors of the executing agencies on their 1993 accounts relating to funds allocated to them by UNDP
- Audited accounts and audit reports of the executing agencies as at 31/12/1993
- Harmonization of presentation of budgets and accounts (94/30)
- Procurement from developing countries
- United Nations system regular and extrabudgetary technical cooperation expenditures
- UNFPA annual financial review, 1994
- UNFPA biennial budget proposals for 1996-1997
- Programme of work for future sessions

Annex I

DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD DURING 1994

94/1. Expression of appreciation to Mr. Luis María Gómez, Associate Administrator of UNDP, 1990-1994

The Executive Board

Notes with regret that Mr. Luis María Gómez, Associate Administrator since 1990, is resigning and wishes to thank him most sincerely for the dedicated, highly effective and good humoured way in which he made an exceptional contribution to the work of the United Nations Development Programme. The Executive Board wishes him and his family every success in the future: Good luck Luis!

15 February 1994

94/2. Future sessions of the Executive Board

The Executive Board

Agrees to the following schedule of future meetings of the Board subject to the approval of the Committee on Conferences and, in case of the October meeting, of the General Assembly:

(a) A regular session from 10 to 13 May 1994 in New York;

(b) The annual session from 6 to 17 June 1994 at Geneva with UNDP subjects to be taken up during the first week of the session and subjects relating to UNFPA and United Nations technical cooperation activities to be taken up during the second week;

(c) A regular session of three days' duration beginning around 6 October 1994 in New York, immediately following the conclusion of the G-77 meeting;

(d) The first regular session 1995 from 10 to 13 January 1995 in New York.

16 and 18 February 1994

94/3. Summary records

The Executive Board

Decides to replace the summary records for the regular sessions of the Board with a report prepared by the secretariat, which will also contain the decisions taken by the Board. This report will be distributed to all members of the Programme a few weeks after the session and will be approved at the following session of the Board.

18 February 1994

94/4. Format of reports

The Executive Board

Decides that reports from the secretariat shall normally consist of no more than three pages and include sections identifying the objective of the report, means of implementation and the decision requested of the Board. Where unavoidable, additional information shall be provided in an annex or addendum to the report.

18 February 1994

94/5. HIV and Development: National Professional Officers

The Executive Board

Authorizes the Administrator to complete the hiring of 22 National Officer posts as per Governing Council decision 93/35 on the condition that:

(a) The HIV/AIDS Inter-Agency Working Group reviews the terms of reference and proposed locations of these 22 positions and agrees in writing that they are consistent with a longer-term staffing strategy compatible with the establishment of a joint co-sponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS;

(b) The contracts will be of a six-month duration only and will be reviewed by the Executive Board at its October 1994 session before further approval is given;

(c) The Administrator gives firm assurances to the Executive Board that any activity of the Programme now and in the future will be fully integrated with, complementary to, and non-duplicative of existing activities of other United Nations agencies in this field and fully compatible with a joint co-sponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS;

(d) The United Nations Development Programme treat with urgency negotiation of a joint co-sponsored programme on HIV/AIDS and bring to the May regular session of the Executive Board further information on how it will integrate its activities in HIV/AIDS with such a programme so that the Executive Board can work towards a recommendation of a joint co-sponsored programme to the Economic and Social Council no later than July 1994.

18 February 1994

94/6. United Nations joint and co-sponsored programme on HIV/AIDS

The Executive Board

1. Encourages the United Nations Development Programme to continue to participate actively in the ongoing negotiations among the secretariats of the

United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization and the World Bank to establish with urgency a United Nations joint and co-sponsored programme on HIV/AIDS and to ensure that a proposal is put before the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1994;

2. Supports participation of the United Nations Development Programme in the new United Nations joint and co-sponsored programme on HIV/AIDS;

3. Reaffirms that country coordination of the joint and co-sponsored programme should be undertaken within the framework of General Assembly resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992 and of Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/7 of 22 July 1993;

4. Authorizes the Administrator to recruit the 22 National Officers as per decision 93/35 of 18 June 1993, taking into consideration the future need to adjust the terms of reference for the 22 positions to make them compatible with the United Nations joint and co-sponsored programme on HIV/AIDS;

5. Requests the Administrator to report on the activities of these 22 National Professional Officers to the Executive Board at its second regular session 1995;

6. Requests the Administrator to transmit the present decision to the other co-sponsoring organizations as well as to the Economic and Social Council.

10 May 1994

94/7. United Nations International Short-Term Advisory Resources

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the Report of the Administrator on the United Nations International Short-Term Advisory Resources programme;

2. Requests the Administrator to explore creative means to support the continued growth of the United Nations International Short-Term Advisory Resources programme, including the application of funding, where appropriate, from the Special Programme Resources, in areas where the programme is conducting innovative and experimental work in support of sustainable human development;

3. Requests the Administrator to encourage special contributions from the private and public sectors of developed and developing countries to the United Nations Volunteers Special Voluntary Fund for innovative United Nations International Short-Term Advisory Resources activities.

12 May 1994

94/8. Granting of indicative planning figure resources to Albania

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator contained in document DP/1994/4 and its annex;

2. Decides, in view of Albania's current and near-term circumstances of severe poverty and extremely low per capita income, to authorize the Administrator to allocate an additional $1.6 million to the fifth cycle indicative planning figure resources available to Albania on an exceptional and one-time basis. The amount will be adjusted in accordance with any future revisions in indicative planning figures that the Executive Board may approve at its 1994 annual session.

13 May 1994

94/9. United Nations Volunteers

The Executive Board

1. Notes the range of roles being undertaken by the United Nations Volunteers, encompassing its participation in the full development-humanitarian relief-peace continuum as described in the report of the Administrator (DP/1994/28);

2. Invites the Administrator to designate the United Nations Volunteers as manager of the Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals initiative in addition to the United Nations International Short-Term Advisory Resources programme, which has already merged with the United Nations Volunteers;

3. Authorizes the United Nations Volunteers to commit funds, on a fully funded basis, on receipt of written pledges rather than on receipt of the funds, as concerns the general purpose component of the Special Voluntary Fund; and

4. Requests the Administrator to continue to seek more financial resources for assured and firm funding for the Domestic Development Services programme.

13 May 1994

94/10. Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its second regular session 1994

The Executive Board

Recalls that during the second regular session 1994 it:

ITEM 1: ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Approved the agenda and work plan for its second regular session 1994 (DP/1994/L.2);

Approved the report of the first regular session 1994 (DP/1994/2);

Decided to abolish the summary records for its annual sessions;

ITEM 2: OFFICE FOR PROJECT SERVICES

Decided to defer decision-taking to the 1994 annual session and to hold open-ended informal consultations on this subject before the 1994 annual session;

ITEM 3: PROGRAMME-LEVEL ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ASSISTANCE

Took note of the report on the role of UNDP in humanitarian affairs (DP/1994/13);

Adopted decision 94/6 of 10 May 1994 on the United Nations joint and co-sponsored programme on HIV/AIDS;

ITEM 4: MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMMING CYCLES

Adopted decision 94/8 of 13 May 1994 on the granting of indicative planning figure to Albania;

ITEM 5: COUNTRY PROGRAMMES, MID-TERM REVIEWS AND RELATED MATTERS

Approved the following country programmes:

Fourth country programme for Albania (DP/CP/ALB/4)

Fifth country programme for Guyana (DP/CP/GUY/5)

Fifth country programme for the Islamic Republic of Iran (DP/CP/IRA/5)

Sixth country programme for Kenya (DP/CP/KEN/6)

Fifth country programme for Madagascar (DP/CP/MAG/5)

First country programme for Slovakia (DP/CP/SLO/1)

Authorized the Administrator to approve projects on a case-by-case basis for the following countries: Angola (DP/1994/8); Congo (DP/1994/21); Togo (DP/1994/42); Zaire (DP/1994/43);

Took note of the following reports: (a) Advancement of the fifth country programme for the United Republic of Tanzania (DP/1994/15); (b) Review of the fourth country programme for Equatorial Guinea (DP/1994/30);

Considered the report on assistance to the Union of Myanmar (DP/1994/17); the views expressed are reflected in the report of the session;

Took note of the report on assistance to Cambodia (DP/1994/25) and approved an advance commitment of an additional $12 million as suggested in paragraph 18 of the report;

Took note of the third intercountry programme for the Arab States (DP/RAB/3);

Took note of the report on progress and results of UNDP efforts in Somalia (DP/1994/3);

Took note of the report on impact of the overall enabling environment of the Sudan on the implementation of the fourth country programme (DP/1994/16);

Took note of the report on the field visit to Albania and Uzbekistan (DP/1994/CRP.1);

Mid-term review reports

Took note of the arrangements for submission of mid-term reviews (DP/1994/6 and DP/1994/41);

Took note of the mid-term review reports on: (a) Fifth country programme for Zambia (DP/1994/6/Add.1); (b) Fourth country programme for Cape Verde (DP/1994/41/Add.1); (c) Fourth country programme for India (DP/1994/6/Add.2); (d) Fourth country programme for Indonesia (DP/1994/6/Add.3); (e) Third country programme for China (DP/1994/41/Add.2);

ITEM 6: EVALUATION

Took note of the annual report on evaluation (DP/1994/24);

ITEM 7: OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

Adopted decision 94/9 of 13 May 1994 on United Nations Volunteers;

Adopted decision 94/7 of 12 May 1994 on United Nations International Short-Term Advisory Resources;

Took note of the report on: (a) United Nations Fund for Science and

Technology for Development; (b) United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration; (c) Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals (DP/1994/29);

Took note of the report on the United Nations Capital Development Fund (DP/1994/33) and encouraged the Fund to continue its efforts to identify increased sources of financing, including those from non-traditional donors;

ITEM 8: OTHER MATTERS

Adopted the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility (GEF II) as the basis for the participation of UNDP as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility (DP/1994/60).

13 May 1994

94/11. Matters relating to the programming cycles: South Africa

The Executive Board

1. Welcomes the Republic of South Africa as recipient country in the United Nations Development Programme;

2. Decides to authorize the Administrator to allocate an indicative planning figure of $10 million to the Republic of South Africa for the remaining period of the fifth cycle, as recommended in annex II of document DP/1994/38.

8 June 1994

94/12. Office for Project Services

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the Secretary-General's intention to strengthen the coordinating and central funding roles of the United Nations Development Programme in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/199, and other relevant resolutions and to ensure that the Office for Project Services will undertake implementation rather than funding activities;

2. Recognizes the need for a self-financing Office for Project Services, which should become a separate and identifiable entity, without the establishment of a separate administrative apparatus;

3. Stresses the importance of OPS continuing to operate within the United Nations development system and not becoming a new agency;

4. Underlines the need to enhance further the role of the Executive Board in providing overall policy guidance for and supervision of OPS;

5. Recommends to the General Assembly that, instead of the merger proposed in Governing Council decision 93/42 of 18 June 1993, the Office for Project Services should become a separate and identifiable entity in a form that does not create a new agency and in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and other operational entities, whose administrative support, including that relating to financial and personnel matters, will continue to be provided by UNDP and that the Office should continue to work through the UNDP field network;

6. Agrees in principle to the Secretary-General's proposal to establish, within existing resources, a Management Coordinating Committee for the Office for Project Services in order to address certain perceived conflicts of interest between the coordinating and implementing roles of the United Nations Development Programme, subject to consideration of a report to be prepared by the Administrator in consultation with the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management and the Under-Secretary-General for Development Support and Management Services, on its precise role and functions at its third regular session in 1994;

7. Endorses the Secretary-General's recommendation that the Committee would consist of:

Chairman: The Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

Members: The Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management

The Under-Secretary-General for Development Support and Management Services

Secretary: The Executive Director of the Office for Project Services;

8. Decides that, subject to paragraph 6 of the present decision, the Executive Director will report to the Secretary-General and the Executive Board through the Management Coordinating Committee;

9. Agrees also in principle to the Secretary-General's proposal to establish, within existing resources, an Office for Project Services Users Advisory Group, under the chairmanship of the Under-Secretary-General for Development Support and Management Services, with the responsibility of ensuring that the Office for Project Services is fully aware of the concerns of United Nations organizations and others who utilize its services and with the responsibility of making appropriate recommendations;

10. Requests the Executive Director of the Office for Project Services, in collaboration with the Administrator and subject to the approval of the recommendation in paragraph 5 above by the General Assembly, to report to the Executive Board no later than at its third regular session through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on ways of establishing the Office for Project Services as a separate and identifiable entity and of increasing the transparency of its operations, including proposals concerning:

(a) The precise role and composition of the Office for Project Services Users Advisory Group;

(b) The establishment of a separate contracts committee;

(c) Any necessary revision of the financial and procurement rules of the United Nations Development Programme as they apply to the Office for Project Services in order to ensure the efficiency of the office and to enable it to work in a businesslike manner;

(d) More transparent accounting procedures for the Office for Project Services, including improved auditing;

(e) The responsibility of the Office for Project Services in personnel matters;

(f) Ways of ensuring that the Office for Project Services perform implementation functions and that it operate on a self-financing basis.

9 June 1994

94/13. Role of the United Nations Development Programme in the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator contained in document DP/1994/12;

2. Encourages the Administrator, African countries and the international community to continue to support the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s;

3. Also encourages the United Nations Development Programme to continue to participate in dialogue on resolving Africa's debt problems;

4. Requests the Administrator to report annually to the Executive Board on the role of the United Nations Development Programme in the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

9 June 1994

94/14. Future of UNDP

The Executive Board

1. Commends the Administrator on his report entitled "Initiatives for change" (DP/1994/39), and welcomes the initiatives proposed therein;

2. Supports the global framework for the United Nations Development Programme set out in the report and agrees that the overall mission of UNDP should be to assist programme countries in their endeavour to realize

sustainable human development, in line with their national development programmes and priorities;

3. Encourages the Administrator to continue his efforts to focus the programme of UNDP by operationalizing the three goals and four priority areas outlined in the report, taking into account the views expressed at the 1994 annual session and the ongoing discussions on the successor arrangements to the fifth programming cycle;

4. Emphasizes that national development priorities shall be the primary determinant of UNDP-supported programmes, which must remain country-driven;

5. Takes note of the organizational restructuring proposed by the Administrator to enhance the ability of UNDP to fulfil its mission, and encourages the Administrator to undertake the necessary adjustments to this end;

6. Requests the Administrator to report back to the Executive Board at the 1995 annual session on his progress in moving the agenda of UNDP forward as outlined in paragraph 3 of the present decision.

10 June 1994

94/15. 1994 Human Development Report

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the observations of a number of delegations at the 1994 annual session with regard to the 1994 Human Development Report;

2. Welcomes the Administrator's intention to improve the process of consultation with Member States and other relevant international bodies to refine the methodologies used in the report with a view towards improving its quality and accuracy without compromising its editorial independence;

3. Takes note of the Administrator's intention to report back to the Board on this issue at its annual session 1995.

10 June 1994

94/16. Mid-term review of the fifth programming cycle

The Executive Board

1. Notes the revised resource framework for the fifth cycle as set out in document DP/1994/18;

2. Approves the expenditure targets specified for indicative planning figures and Special Programme Resources as outlined in table 1 of document DP/1994/18;

3. Approves revised indicative planning figures for individual countries and programmes and Special Programme Resources as set out respectively in tables 2 and 3 of document DP/1994/18, at 70 per cent of originally established levels, while urging the Administrator to continue his endeavour to find resources to enable the restoration of indicative planning figures to the original levels and report back on the results of his efforts to the Board at its next regular session;

4. Authorizes the Administrator to redeploy resources within each Special Programme Resources programme category as set out in paragraph 16 of document DP/1994/18, excluding region-specific subprogrammes;

5. Approves borrowing arrangements as set out in paragraph 19 of document DP/1994/18;

6. Takes note of the proposals of the Administrator to redeploy resources within the revised earmarkings for support cost arrangements, described in section II D of document DP/1994/18, but defers consideration to the October session 1994 of the Board, when the subject of support cost arrangements is to be reviewed.

10 June 1994

94/17. Issues relating to the sixth programming cycle

The Executive Board

1. Reaffirms the principles of eligibility of all recipient countries on the basis of the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities of the United Nations Development System, which are, inter alia, universality, neutrality, multilateralism, the voluntary and grant nature of assistance and the capacity to respond to the needs of all recipient countries in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development;

2. Notes that the debate on the future role of the United Nations Development Programme is closely linked with the process leading to a decision on the next programming period;

3. Considers document DP/1994/20 an important contribution to consultations on establishing the structure of the next programming period of the United Nations Development Programme, and notes that it identifies the following clusters of issues:

(a) Programming objectives;

(b) Resource distribution;

(c) Financing mechanisms;

4. Decides to continue its consideration of these issues at its upcoming regular sessions, with a view to reaching a final decision on the next programming period at its 1995 annual session;

5. Requests the Administrator to outline a possible structure of further deliberations and to prepare further documentation for the third regular session of the Board, addressing in particular the following points:

(a) The development of the Administrator's "Initiatives for change" as he intends to apply them to the next programming period;

(b) Options for the revision of the indicative planning figure programming framework;

(c) Options for the revision of resource distribution methodology, including:

(i) Eligibility criteria and graduation;

(ii) Supplementary criteria and weights.

10 June 1994

94/18. Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its annual session 1994

A

The Executive Board

Recalls that during the United Nations Development Programme segment of the annual session 1994 it:

ITEM 1: ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Approved the agenda and the work plan for its annual session 1994 with the decisions regarding items 5 and 8 indicated below under these items (DP/1993/L.3);

Approved the report of the second regular session 1994 with the comments received (DP/1994/9);

ITEM 2: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR AND RELATED MATTERS

Took note of the following reports:

Annual report of the Administrator for 1993 (DP/1994/10 and Add.1-5 and DP/1994/10/Add.2/Corr.2);

UNDP follow-up to General Assembly resolution 47/199 (DP/1994/22);

Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (DP/1994/11);

Adopted decision 94/15 of 10 June 1994 on the 1994 Human Development Report;

Adopted decision 94/13 of 9 June 1994 on the role of the United Nations Development Programme in the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s;

ITEM 3: FUTURE OF UNDP

Adopted decision 94/14 of 10 June 1994 on the future of the United Nations Development Programme;

ITEM 4: MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMMING CYCLES

Adopted decision 94/16 of 10 June 1994 on the mid-term review of the fifth programming cycle;

Adopted decision 94/17 of 10 June 1994 on issues relating to the sixth programming cycle;

Adopted decision 94/11 of 8 June 1994 entitled "Matters relating to the programming cycles: South Africa", in which the Republic of South Africa was welcomed as a recipient country;

ITEM 5: LOCATION OF UNDP/UNFPA HEADQUARTERS

Decided not to consider this agenda item;

ITEM 8: UNITED NATIONS TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

Decided to postpone consideration of United Nations technical cooperation activities to the third regular session 1994;

ITEM 9: OFFICE FOR PROJECT SERVICES

Adopted decision 94/12 of 9 June 1994 on the Office for Project Services.

10 June 1994

B

The Executive Board

Recalls that during the UNFPA segment of the annual session 1994 it:

ITEM 1: ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Agreed on the work plan for the UNFPA segment with the changes suggested, including the decision of the Executive Board taken on 9 June 1994 to postpone its consideration of the field visit reports to the third regular session; it was also agreed that future field visit reports should be considered only at regular sessions;

Approved the report of the annual session 1994 with the comments received (future DP/1994/55);

Adopted decision 94/24 of 16 June 1994 on documentation.

Agreed to decide dates for future sessions at the third regular session 1994 based on the following reservations made:

Regular session: 10-13 January 1995

Regular session: 24-26 April 1995

Annual session: 5-16 June 1995

Regular session: 25-29 September 1995

ITEM 6: UNFPA: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PROGRAMME-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

Took note of the following reports:

Annual report of the Executive Director for 1993 (DP/1994/44)

Update on the UNFPA Review and Assessment Exercise (DP/1994/48)

Periodic report on evaluation (DP/1994/46)

Status of financial implementation of Governing Council-approved country programmes and projects (DP/1994/49)

Adopted decision 94/19 of 16 June 1994 on the Global Initiative on Contraceptive Requirements and Logistics Management Needs in Developing Countries in the 1990s;

Adopted decision 94/20 of 16 June 1994 on the work plan for 1995-1998 and request for programme expenditure authority;

Adopted decision 94/21 of 16 June 1994 on the Commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the operations of the United Nations Population Fund;

Adopted decision 94/22 of 16 June 1994 on the United Nations joint and co-sponsored programme on HIV/AIDS;

Adopted decision 94/23 of 16 June 1994 on implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199;

ITEM 7: UNFPA: COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS

Country programmes:

Approved the following country programmes as presented, subject to the availability of resources, and authorized the Executive Director to make the necessary arrangements for their management, funding and execution:

Assistance to the Government of Chad (DP/FPA/CP/135)
Assistance to the Government of Zambia (DP/FPA/CP/136)
Assistance to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran (DP/FPA/CP/137)
Assistance to the Government of Maldives (DP/FPA/CP/138)
Assistance to the Government of Nicaragua (DP/FPA/CP/140)
Assistance to the Government of the Philippines (DP/FPA/CP/139)

Interim reports:

Took note of the interim report on the implementation of the second UNFPA country programme for Equatorial Guinea (DP/1994/50);

Adopted decision 94/25 of 16 June 1994 on assistance to Rwanda.

16 June 1994

94/19. Global Initiative on Contraceptive Requirements and Logistics Management Needs in Developing Countries in the 1990s

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director on the Global Initiative on Contraceptive Requirements and Logistics Management Needs in Developing Countries in the 1990s (document DP/1994/47);

2. Endorses the continuation of the work of the Global Initiative;

3. Authorizes the Executive Director to make appropriate arrangements, through the use of project funds, to continue the work of the Secretariat of the Global Initiative for a further two-year period;

4. Requests the Executive Director to submit to the Executive Board in 1995 a status report on the Global Initiative as well as proposals for continuing its work beyond 1995, if necessary.

16 June 1994

94/20. Work plan for 1995-1998 and request for programme expenditure authority

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the Executive Director's programme resource planning proposals as set out in paragraphs 7 to 15 of document DP/1994/45;

2. Approves the request for 1995 programme expenditure authority at a level equal to programmable resources for 1995, currently estimated at $224 million;

3. Takes note of the following estimates of new programmable resources from regular resources for the 1996-1998 period: $241.5 million for 1996; $255.0 million for 1997; and $270.5 million for 1998;

4. Also takes note of the following estimates of new programmable resources from multi-bilateral funding: $15 million per year for the years 1995-1998.

16 June 1994

94/21. Commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the operations of the United Nations Population Fund

The Executive Board

1. Recommends to the General Assembly that it allocate a plenary meeting during its forty-ninth session (1994) to the commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the operations of the United Nations Population Fund;

2. Requests the Executive Director to make all necessary preparations for this commemoration.

16 June 1994

94/22. United Nations joint and co-sponsored programme on HIV/AIDS

The Executive Board

1. Supports participation of the United Nations Population Fund in the new United Nations joint and co-sponsored programme on HIV/AIDS in a manner as set forth in paragraphs 1 and 3 of its decision 94/6 of 10 May 1994;

2. Requests the Executive Director to transmit the present decision to the other co-sponsoring organizations as well as to the Economic and Social Council.

16 June 1994

94/23. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199

The Executive Board

Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund to incorporate feedback from their field offices, including on problems encountered, in their reports on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199.

16 June 1994

94/24. Documentation

The Executive Board

1. Decides that, pending the establishment of and without prejudice to the contents of the new rules of procedure, when reports to the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board have not been submitted to the United Nations Office of Conference Services for translation into all official languages seven weeks (nine weeks in the case of country programmes) before the start of the session in which they are to be discussed, the relevant agenda items will be postponed until the next session of the Board unless the Board takes a decision at any stage to retain an item on the agenda on an exceptional basis.

16 June 1994

94/25. Assistance to Rwanda

The Executive Board

1. Encourages UNFPA, given the current situation in Rwanda, to support, in appropriate ways and in collaboration with other relief agencies, emergency assistance to the people of Rwanda from the third population programme resources on an exceptional basis;

2. Requests the Executive Director of UNFPA to report to the Executive Board at its next annual session on measures taken to implement this decision.

16 June 1994

94/26. Agency support costs

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator on agency support costs (DP/1994/23) and of the report of the independent evaluation of the support cost arrangements (DP/1994/23/Add.1);

2. Takes note of the status of the financial provisions;

3. Authorizes the Administrator to redeploy resources within the revised support cost earmarkings as indicated below, on the understanding that such transfers will apply only to the fifth programming cycle and that the governments concerned will be fully consulted on the use of these resources:

(a) Transfer of unutilized resources from TSS-2 to TSS-1, within the overall reduced earmarking of $120 million;

(b) Enhancement of the sectoral support facility by an amount of $5 million to finance technical support services to be provided by the smaller technical agencies through redeployment of unutilized resources remaining in line 3, annex I, of decision 91/32.

7 October 1994

94/27. United Nations technical cooperation activities

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General (DP/1994/26 and Add. 1-2);

2. Notes and encourages the steps being taken towards closer collaboration between the Department for Development Support and Management Services and the regional commissions, and other entities of the Secretariat, and between the Department and the United Nations Development Programme in relation to areas of common concern and, in this context, urges the Programme to consider greater utilization of the technical capacities of the Department.

10 October 1994

94/28. Annual review of the financial situation, 1993

The Executive Board

1. Takes note with concern of the decreased level of contributions to the United Nations Development Programme, which has led to a significant reduction in the level of indicative planning figures;

2. Invites Governments to consider increasing their voluntary contributions to the United Nations Development Programme on a more predictable, continuous and assured basis;

3. Requests Governments to pay their voluntary contributions to the United Nations Development Programme as early in the year as possible or in regular instalments over the year;

4. Notes with satisfaction the substantial increase in the use of national execution in the delivery of the Programme;

5. Notes with concern the overcommitment and overexpenditure in the Reserve for Field Accommodation and requests that a three-year plan on the utilization of the Reserve be presented to the Board at its first regular session 1995;

6. Approves the changes to the Financial Regulations set out in document DP/1994/34/Add.4, which will take effect 1 January 1995 unless any Member of the Executive Board lodges an objection in writing with the Administrator before that date;

7. Takes note of the changes to the Financial Rules set out in document DP/1994/34/Add.4;

8. Requests the United Nations Development Programme to intensify its efforts to close down inactive trust funds;

9. Also requests that it be kept informed in the relevant financial reports on an annual basis of the number and value of projects and programmes which the United Nations Development Programme executes on its own behalf and which the United Nations Office for Project Services executes on behalf of the members of the United Nations system.

10 October 1994

94/29. Revised budget estimates for the biennium 1994-95

The Executive Board

1. Approves, with respect to the revised budget estimates for the 1994-1995 biennium of the United Nations Development Programme and the funds administered by the United Nations Development Programme (DP/1994/35), a revised appropriation in the amount of $607,882,000 gross, to be allocated from the resources indicated in table B, to finance the revised 1994-1995 biennial budget and resolves that the income estimates in the amount of $36,700,000 shall be used to offset the gross appropriation, resulting in a net appropriation of $571,182,000;

2. Takes note of the Administrator's reports on (a) the regional service centre concept; (b) the United Nations Development Programme field presence in the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States; (c) the piloting of short-term, non-permanent contracts; and (d) United Nations Development Programme initiatives with regard to a field presence in South Africa;

3. Takes further note of the accounting treatment of the transitional costs relating to the implementation of the 1994-1995 budget strategy, as approved by the Governing Council in its decision 93/35 of 18 June 1993;

4. Recalls its decision 94/32 regarding the Office of Project Services, in particular, in this context, to those elements that relate to the OPS budget estimates and future arrangements concerning the presentation thereof.

10 October 1994

United Nations Development Programme revised budget estimates for the biennium 1994-1995 for administrative services, programme support and development activities and trust funds
(Thousands of United States dollars)

	APPROVES:	TAKES NOTE OF:	
	Gross/net appropriations	Estimated extra-budgetary income	Total gross/net estimates
I. RESOURCES OF UNDP			
A. UNDP core activities a/			
Headquarters b/	148 903.3	24 705.4	173 608.7
Country Offices	231 098.6	37 488.6	268 587.2
Gross UNDP core activities	380 001.9	62 194.0	442 195.9
Estimated income	36 700.0	0.0	36 700.0
Net UNDP core activities	343 301.9	62 194.0	405 495.9
B. Programme support and development activities			
Programme development activities	25 914.7	0.0	25 914.7
Support to the operational activities of the United Nations	93 478.1	0.0	93 478.1
Project/programme implementation services			
DSS	6 225.0	0.0	6 225.0
OPS c/	31 126.2	37 100.0	68 226.2
IAPSO	5 925.9	2 865.8	8 791.7
UNV	31 241.0	406.2	31 647.2
National execution	3 140.0	0.0	3 140.0
Total project/programme implementation services	77 658.1	40 372.0	118 030.1
Programme support d/	2 300.0	0.0	2 300.0
Total programme support and development activities	199 350.9	40 372.0	239 722.9
C. Total resources of UNDP			
Gross resources	579 352.8	102 566.0	681 918.8
Estimated income	36 700.0	0.0	36 700.0
Net resources	542 652.8	102 566.0	645 218.8
II. RESOURCES OF TRUST FUNDS			
A. UNCDF	11 778.9	0.0	11 778.9
B. UNRFNRE and UNFSTD	2 357.0	313.8	2 670.8
C. UNSO	7 779.0	3 586.6	11 365.6
D. UNIFEM	6 674.3	466.1	7 080.4
Total	28 529.2	4 366.5	32 895.7
III. TOTAL UNDP APPROPRIATION			
Gross appropriation	607 882.0	106 932.5	714 814.5
Estimated income	36 700.0	0.0	36 700.0
Net UNDP appropriation	571 182.0	106 932.5	678 114.5

a/ The Administrator is permitted to redeploy between the country office and headquarters appropriation lines up to a maximum of 5 per cent.
b/ Headquarters extrabudgetary income represents income from external sources, exclusive of reimbursements to UNDP core from non-core units. The reimbursements are already included in the appropriation estimates of the non-core units.
c/ The approved appropriation is funded from UNDP general resources.
d/ Represents UNDP contribution to CGIAR and UNDP-UNSO/UNEP joint venture.

Source: Table B from document DP/1994/35 attached for ease of reference.

94/30. Harmonization of presentation of budgets and accounts

The Executive Board

Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, in the context of General Assembly decision 47/449 of 22 December 1992, General Assembly resolution 48/216, part C, of 23 December 1993 and the observations made at the current session with regard to the format of budget and account presentations, to cooperate with other United Nations programmes and funds to work towards harmonizing their presentation of budgets and accounts with a view to achieving common definitions, particularly of administrative costs, and obtaining a higher degree of financial transparency and comparability, and to report thereon to the Executive Board at its third regular session in 1995.

10 October 1994

94/31. Matters relating to the programming cycle: Haiti

The Executive Board

Requests the Administrator to prepare for the first regular session in January 1995 an assessment of Haiti's development needs and activities in order to review the level of available fifth cycle resources for the years 1995-1996 under the assumption that in the meantime unspent resources can be used to support immediate needs of the country.

10 October 1994

94/32. Office for Project Services

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Director of the Office for Project Services (DP/1994/62 and Add.1-3) while underlining that the United Nations Office for Project Services will undertake implementation and not funding activities;

2. Takes note of the Administrator's report (DP/1994/61) and endorses the establishment of the Management Coordination Committee referred to therein and the Users Advisory Group referred to in document DP/1994/62/Add.1;

3. Authorizes the Administrator and Executive Director to proceed further with the implementation of decision 94/12, to this end taking all steps necessary to establish a self-financing United Nations Office for Project Services that will become a separate and identifiable entity as of 1 January 1995;

4. Reaffirms that the United Nations Office for Project Services will operate within the United Nations development system and will not become a new

agency and that the requirements regarding accountability must be consistent with the decision not to establish a new agency as contained in paragraph 3 of decision 94/12;

5. Takes note of the breakdown of the revised 1994-1995 budget estimates for the Office for Project Services, as contained in document DP/1994/62/Add.3, and recalls its decision 94/29 approving the 1994-1995 estimates for the United Nations Development Programme, including the Office for Project Services;

6. Approves that, in future, the Office for Project Services biennial budget estimates be presented separately from those of the United Nations Development Programme;

7. Decides that the relocation of posts to the field and the establishment of any posts shall be subject to the agreement of the Management Coordination Committee and the ex post facto approval of the Board, with the proviso that posts at the D-1 level and above must receive the advance approval of the Board;

8. Takes note of the proposed financial regulations of the United Nations Office for Project Services and decides to review them at its first regular session in 1995 and that, in the intervening period, the financial regulations of the United Nations Development Programme will continue to apply mutatis mutandis;

9. Requests the Executive Director to report annually on activities of the United Nations Office for Project Services to the Executive Board through the Management Coordination Committee;

10. Requests the Administrator and the Executive Director to submit a specific proposal for the consideration of the Executive Board at its first regular session in 1995, outlining the proposed scope and objectives for the United Nations Office for Project Services, as well as the roles and functions of the Management Coordination Committee and Users Advisory Group vis-à-vis the Executive Board.

10 October 1994

94/33. Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its third regular session 1994

The Executive Board

Recalls that during the third regular session 1994 it:

ITEM 1: ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Approved the agenda and work plan for its third regular session 1994 with oral amendments (DP/1993/L.5);

Agreed to the following schedule of future sessions of the Executive Board in New York subject to the approval of the Committee on Conferences:

First regular session: 10-13 January 1995

Second regular session: (Following the third regular session, delegations requested that the dates agreed on for the second regular session (24-27 April 1995) should be changed since they overlapped with a session of the Commission for Sustainable Development. The second regular session was therefore tentatively rescheduled to 4-7 April 1995.)

Annual session: 5-16 June 1995

Third regular session: 28 August-1 September 1995

Agreed to the subjects to be discussed at the 1995 sessions as listed in the annex;

ITEM 2: AGENCY SUPPORT COSTS

Adopted decision 94/26 of 7 October 1994 on agency support costs;

ITEM 3: COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS

Authorized the Administrator to approve programmes and projects on a case-by-case basis for the following countries: Aruba, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Netherlands Antilles, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago (DP/1994/32);

Approved the first country programme for Cambodia (DP/CP/KHM/1);

Took note of the reports on field visits to Philippines and Viet Nam (DP/1994/CRP.2); West Bank and Gaza and Jordan (DP/1994/CRP.3); Kenya and Zimbabwe (DP/1994/CRP.9);

Decided to consider new arrangements for future field visits at its first regular session 1995;

ITEM 4: UNDP FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Adopted decision 94/28 of 10 October 1994 on annual review of the financial situation 1993 and took note of the report of the Administrator on this subject (DP/1994/34 and Corr.1 and Add. 1-4), the comments and observations made and the assurances provided by UNDP;

Adopted decision 94/29 of 10 October 1994 on revised budget estimates for the biennium 1994-1995;

Took note of the report of the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the revised budget estimates for the biennium 1994-1995 (DP/1994/36);

Took note of the Administrator's note on audit reports (DP/1994/37 and Add.1);

Took note of the report of the Administrator on the status of Management Service Agreements (DP/1994/56);

Adopted decision 94/30 of 10 October 1994 on harmonization of presentation of budgets and accounts, concerning both UNDP and UNFPA;

ITEM 5: UNFPA FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Took note of the UNFPA annual financial review, 1993 (DP/1994/53) and the comments made thereon;

Adopted decision 94/30 of 10 October 1994 on harmonization of presentation of budgets and accounts, concerning both UNDP and UNFPA;

ITEM 6: FOLLOW-UP TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Took note of the oral report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development;

ITEM 7: MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMMING CYCLES

Took note of the report of the Administrator on his endeavour to find resources to enable the restoration of indicative planning figures to the original levels (DP/1994/1)

Took note of the report of the Administrator on possible options for a structure for the next programming period (DP/1994/59);

Took note of the declaration "Main Principles and Guidelines for the Sixth Programming Cycle of the United Nations Development Programme", adopted in Santiago on 7 September 1994 by Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay (DP/1994/63);

Decided to consider again the question of a structure for the next programming period at its first regular session 1995;

Adopted decision 94/31 of 10 October 1994 entitled "Matters relating to the programming cycles: Haiti";

ITEM 8: OFFICE FOR PROJECT SERVICES

Adopted decision 94/32 of 10 October 1994 on the Office for Project Services;

Took note of the report of the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the Office for Project Services (DP/1994/57);

ITEM 9: UNITED NATIONS TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

Adopted decision 94/27 of 10 October 1994 on United Nations technical cooperation activities;

ITEM 10: OTHER MATTERS

Decided to resume the consideration of the report of the Administrator on the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (DP/1994/58) at its first regular session 1995.

10 October 1994

Annex

UNDP/UNFPA EXECUTIVE BOARD:

ALLOCATION OF SUBJECTS FOR SESSIONS IN 1995

The following subjects are scheduled to be considered at the 1995 sessions:

First regular session (10-13 January 1995)

- Organizational matters (including election of Bureau and working methods)
- Matters relating to the programming cycles (94/17, paragraph 4)
- Haiti's development needs and activities (94/31)
- Country programmes (including new arrangements for field visits)
- United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (resumed consideration of DP/1994/58)
- Proposed revisions to UNDP Financial Regulations and Rules related to support cost arrangements
- Three-year plan for the utilization of the Reserve for Field Accommodation (94/28, paragraph 5)

- Audit reports: Follow-up to recommendations of the report of the Board of Auditors for the 1992-1993 biennium

- Proposal to relocate the headquarters of the United Nations Volunteers programme from Geneva to Bonn

- United Nations Office for Project Services (94/32, paragraphs 8 and 10)

- UNFPA: Interim report on the programme priorities and future directions of UNFPA in the light of the ICPD

- UNFPA: Audit reports (DP/1994/54)

- Programme of work for future sessions (including follow-up to and preparations for the Economic and Social Council

Second regular session (tentatively rescheduled to 4-7 April 1995)

- Organizational matters

- Matters relating to the programming cycles (94/17, paragraph 4)

- Country programmes (including reports on field visits 1995)

- Mid-term reviews

- Evaluation

- Matters relating to the least developed countries

- Assistance to the Palestinian people

- HIV/AIDS National Professional Officers (94/6, paragraph 5)

- United Nations Development Fund for Women

- United Nations Capital Development Fund (93/32, paragraph 8)

- UNFPA country programmes and projects:

  Africa (Benin; Comoros; Mauritius; Mozambique)
  Arab States and Europe (Sudan; Turkey)
  Asia and the Pacific (Cambodia (project); Central Asian Republics; Indonesia)
  Latin America and the Caribbean (Costa Rica)

- Report on the implementation of UNFPA successor support cost arrangements

- Programme of work for future sessions (including follow-up to and preparations for the Economic and Social Council

Note

The biennial TCDC High-level Meeting is scheduled to be held from 30 May to 2 June 1995, immediately preceding the annual session.

Annual session (5-16 June 1995)

- Organizational matters
- Annual report of the Administrator
- Follow-up to General Assembly resolution 47/199 (94/23)
- Future of UNDP (94/14, paragraph 6)
- Matters relating to the programming cycles (94/17, paragraph 4)
- Human Development Report (94/15, paragraph 3)
- The role of UNDP in the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (94/13, paragraph 4)
- Technical cooperation among developing countries (92/2, paragraph 5 (e))
- United Nations Office for Project Services (94/32, paragraph 9)
- United Nations technical cooperation activities
- UNFPA: Report of the Executive Director for 1994 (including status of implementation of UNFPA Africa strategy, implementation of resolution 47/199, Global Initiative on Contraceptive Requirements, UNFPA assistance to Rwanda)
- UNFPA: Work plan and request for programme expenditure authority
- UNFPA: Status of financial implementation of country programmes and projects
- Report on programme priorities and future directions of UNFPA in light of the ICPD
- Report to the Economic and Social Council
- Programme of work for future sessions

Third regular session (28 August - 1 September 1995)

- Organizational matters
- Follow-up to the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council

- Country programmes (including reports on field visits 1995)

- Mid-term reviews

- Agency support costs (91/32)

- Annual review of the financial situation 1994

- Revised budget estimates for the 1994-1995 biennium

- Budget estimates for the 1996-1997 biennium

- Report of ACABQ on the budget estimates

- Audit reports: Summary of significant observations of the external auditors of the executing agencies on their 1993 accounts relating to funds allocated to them by UNDP

- Audited accounts and audit reports of the executing agencies as at 31/12/1993

- Harmonization of presentation of budgets and accounts (94/30)

- Procurement from developing countries

- United Nations system regular and extrabudgetary technical cooperation expenditures

- UNFPA annual financial review, 1994

- UNFPA biennial budget proposals for 1996-1997

- Programme of work for future sessions

Annex II

MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD IN 1994

(Term expires on the last day in the year indicated)

African States: Cameroon (1994); Congo (1994); Gambia (1994); Lesotho (1994); Morocco (1996); Sierra Leone (1996); Somalia (1994); Sudan (1995).

Asian and Pacific States: Bangladesh (1996); China (1994); India (1995); Pakistan (1996); Papua New Guinea (1994); Philippines (1994); Republic of Korea (1995).

Latin American and Caribbean States: Argentina (1995); Cuba (1994); Peru (1996); Trinidad and Tobago (1996); Uruguay (1995).

Eastern European States: Bulgaria (1995); Poland (1996); Russian Federation (1995); Slovak Republic (1994).

Western European and other States: Belgium (1996); Canada (1994); Denmark (1996); France (1994); Germany (1994); Italy (1995); Japan (1996); New Zealand (1995); Norway (1994); Portugal (1996); United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (1995); United States of America (1995).